YUKINOBU TATSU

DRAGON DRIVE

15

J-POP

BAN DAI

STORY AND ART BY

YUKINOBU TATSU

15

CHARACTERS

MOMO AYASE

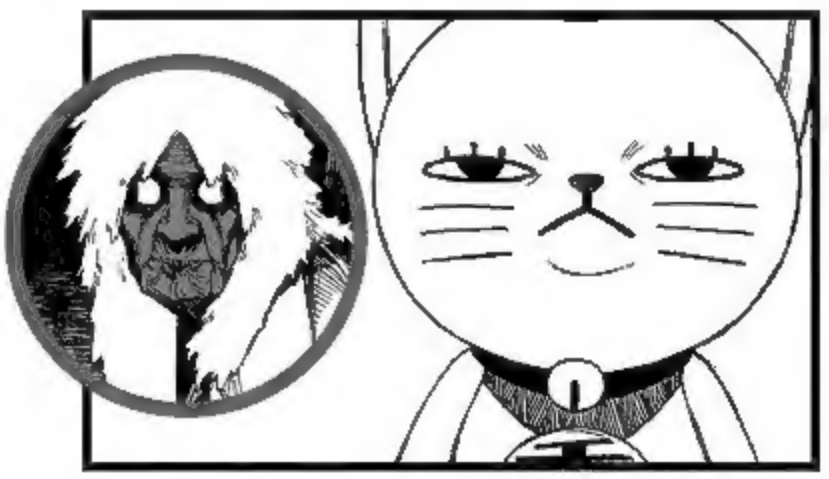
A high school girl from a family of spirit mediums. Her powers awakened after she was abducted by aliens. Following the battle with Turbo Granny, she helps to search for Okarun's testicles.

OKARUN (KEN TAKAKURA)

A geek for paranormal phenomena who lost his testicles in the fight against Turbo Granny and must now spend his time looking for them. He has developed feelings for Momo.

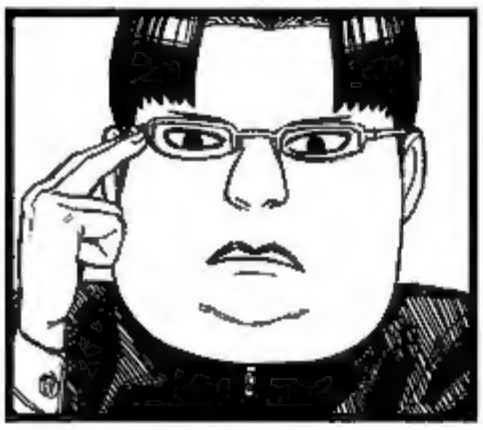
SEIKO

Momo's grandmother. She's active as the spirit medium Santa Dodoria. She's powerful enough to enclose their home in a mystical barrier, and she supports Momo and the others from the shadows.



TURBO GRANNY

Appearing at unexpected times and places, she's a present-day yokai who ran riot throughout the country. Her power remains within Okarun, while her consciousness is stuck in a beckoning-cat figure that she uses to get around.

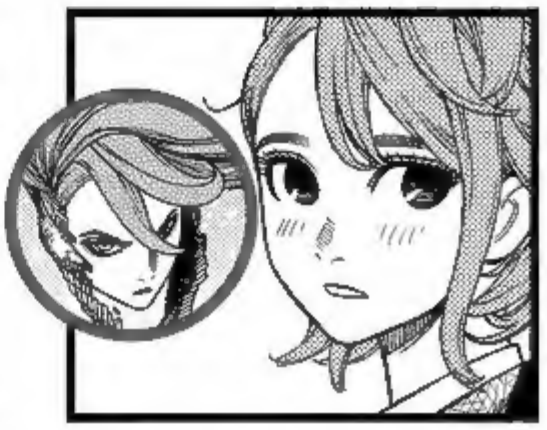


KINTA SAKATA

Okarun's classmate. He followed Okarun hoping to learn the secret of his attractiveness and instead got tangled up in a kaiju attack.

JIJI (JIN ENJOJI)

Momo's friend since childhood who is possessed by the Evil Eye. He's currently training so as not to be reliant on it.

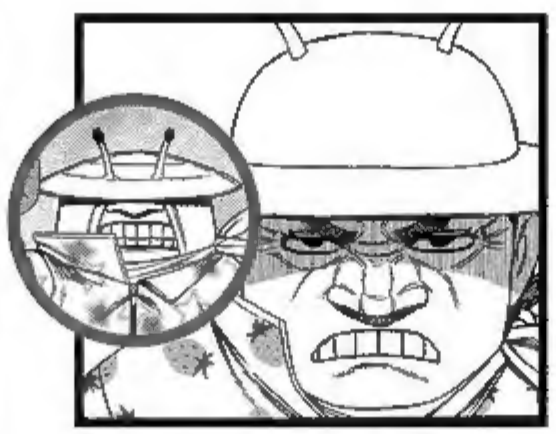


AIRA SHIRATORI

A popular, attractive girl at Momo's school whose powers awaken when she unknowingly picks up one of Okarun's family jewels and ends up taking on the aura of the Acrobatic Silky.

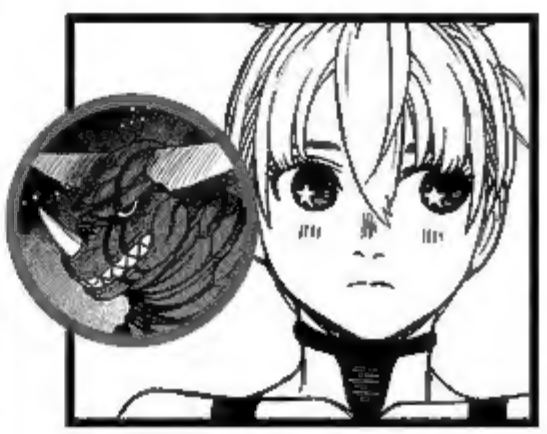
ROKURO (SERPOIAN)

One of the aliens who abducted Momo. After the Kur, the People of the Depths, attacked, he got left behind. He tends to help Momo.



MR. MANTIS SHRIMP

An alien living on Earth for the sake of his sick son. Ever since he was helped by Momo and the others, he's often come to their aid.



VAMOLA

A girl who wears a kaiju suit and possesses something that resembles one of the family jewels. She's a survivor of the Sumerians, a race of space aliens.

STORY

Momo, a firm believer in spirits, comes to the rescue of a paranormal fanatic named Ken Takakura, aka Okarun, when he's getting bullied. After arguing about the validity of each other's interests, they decide to prove their respective beliefs, so Momo is sent to an abandoned hospital known for UFO sightings and Okarun heads to a supposedly haunted tunnel. Once there, Okarun gets cursed by a yokai called Turbo Granny! At the hospital, Momo ends up abducted by aliens called Serpoians, who are seeking a human female for reproduction. They take her aboard their ship, and Momo finds herself in big trouble. Suddenly, Okarun appears, and thanks to Turbo Granny's curse, he's able to transform. At the same time, Momo awakens to her paranormal abilities, and the two are able to escape the UFO. But Okarun's curse affects those around them, so they decide to have a showdown with Turbo Granny. Seiko sets up a barrier around Kamigoe City, and Momo and Okarun subsequently beat Turbo Granny through a game of tag. Later, Momo and the others, including the Evil Eye, fight strenuously to prevent the arrival of an alien invaders' main force. One of the invaders' advance party steals Vamola's suit, but Sakata manages to take it back. Unfortunately, the main force arrives, and Reiko Kashima chooses that moment to also attack. However, the bombing overhead and Momo's cries for her grandmother stir Reiko Kashima's memories, and she instead makes a clean sweep of the invaders, ending the invasion. Although the threat from outer space remains, Okarun and the others use this break in the chaos to resume the search for his remaining family jewel!

DAN DA DAN

15

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121. Who's This Person?

ALL RIGHT, BRING IT ON!!!

WE'LL TEAR YA TO PIECES!!!

ONE FOR ALL !!!

ALL FOR ONE !!!

CAN'T I AT LEAST GET MY FAMILY JEWELS BACK NORMALLY?!

WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAVE TO BE WEIRD?!

JUST HANG ON A SECOND, PLEASE!

AND VICTORY CAN ONLY BE BORN WHEN EACH PERSON FULFILLS THEIR RESPONSI-BILITIES!!!

YOU PEOPLE AREN'T LISTEN-ING TO ME!

FOR THE SAKE OF THE TEAM, THE INDIVIDUAL MUST DISCARD HIM-SELF!!!

YOU PEOPLE ARE BANANAS!

I NEED A HERO-OOO !!!

DUN-DUH! DUH-DUH-DUN!

DA-DAH-DAH! DUH-DUH-DUN!

HYAAAH!

OOH! OOOH!

DA-DAH-DAH! DUH-DUH-DUN!

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME...

...THINK AGAIN, YOU!

SAAAVE!!!

WHAT IS THIS ?!

!

...YOUR BODY ENDS UP REACTING INSTINC-TIVELY!

BECAUSE WHEN THERE'S A CRAB IN PLAY...

I SNUCK IN A CRAB I BOUGHT IN HOKKAIDO!

MORON! FOOLED YOU!

NOOO!!!

TRYYY!!!

THANK YOU.

IT'S BACK.

SOWWY.

IS THIS DEBRIEFING NECESSARY ?

SOWWY.

JIJI, YOUR TACKLES ARE WEAK.

DAMN IT! AND ALL BECAUSE OF THAT CRAB!

NO SIDE!

NO, I'M NOT READY TO SAY GOODBYE, ARE YOU?

HM?

STAFF ROOM

OH.

GOOD MORNING.

GOOD MORNING.

GOOD MORNING, MR. MURA-KAMI.

WAIT. WHERE WAS IT?!

MY SEAT'S GONE?!

UMM ...

MY NAME IS SANJOME.

WHAT THE?!

...DO HAVE A FEELING THAT YOUR SEAT WAS NEARBY...

I CER-TAINLY ...

MY HEAD'S GONE ALL FUNNY!

WAIT!

IT WAS HERE YESTER-DAY...

THAT'S RIGHT! THIS HERE IS YOUR SEAT, ISN'T IT, MR. SANJOME?!

MY NAME IS SANJOME.

UMM ...

BUT ONE THING I *DO* REMEMBER...

...IS THE NAME MR. SANJOME.

...

I'M SORRY, DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER, SIR!

NOW, MY SEAT...

FOR SOME REASON, I'VE GOT NO MEMORY OF HIM EITHER.

WHAT THE...? WE'VE GOT A TEACHER THAT GOOD-LOOKING HERE?

...LIKES TO DRINK PAMPY TOO!

A *FELLOW* LIKE MYSELF ...

IT'LL HAVE TO BE REMEDIED LATER!

I WON'T ABIDE THIS!

I'M SORRY. I'M THE FELLOW THAT TAUGHT YOU THAT...

I'M A FELLOW THAT DOESN'T SAY "ME."

SO THIS IS HOW YOU'RE GONNA TALK ALL THE TIME NOW, HUH?

EVEN THOUGH YOU SPEND MORE TIME WITH *ME*.

YOU THINK SO?

...SO IT'S BETTER THAT SHE SPEAKS LIKE YOU, OKARUN.

EVERYBODY AT MY HOUSE HAS A FOUL MOUTH...

I!

ME!

MO!!

AND TURBO GRANNY TAUGHT ME HOW TO SAY, "YOU SHITHEAD!"

USE IT A LOT.

HM.

THAT'S ONE YOU DON'T NEED TO REMEMBER.

WELL ...

MAYBE WE CAN FIND IT BY LISTENING FOR RUMORS AROUND US.

STILL, I WONDER WHERE YOUR OTHER FAMILY JEWEL COULD BE.

WHO KNOWS?

PERHAPS I SHOULD BUY A SMARTPHONE AND START USING SOCIAL MEDIA

WITH YAMOLA...

...THERE WAS "THE GHOST OF THE APARTMENT BLOCK."

THAT WAS A STORY THAT WAS GOING AROUND ONLY IN MIKO'S CONTACT GROUP.

AND TURBO GRANNY ACTUALLY LOST THEM WITHIN KAMIGOE CITY.

I SEE. THAT *IS* TRUE...

IN THAT CASE, YOUNG LADY!

WE SHOULD FORM A SCHOOL CLUB!!!

HAH?

WE'LL CREATE A PLACE FOR THE GATHERING OF INFORMATION!

LIKE A CLUB FOR THE PARANORMAL!

THAT WOULD BE MOST EFFICIENT!

LAME.

A GROUP CHAT WOULD DO THE SAME THING.

THE NEXT TIME SOMETHING HAPPENS...

...ARE YOU GOING TO TALK ABOUT HIS FAMILY JEWELS IN THAT COURTYARD AGAIN?!

THAT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING, BUT...

...SCHOOL CLUBS ARE JUST LAME...

DOING CLUB ACTIVITIES MEANS YOU NEED TO HAVE SOME KINDA LOFTY GOAL OR SOMETHING, DOESN'T IT?

IN THAT CASE...

...WHAT IF IT WERE FOR HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL RESEARCH?

AFTER ALL, OCCULT-ISM...

...IS THE STUDY OF THE MYSTERIOUS AND UNEXPLAINED.

IT INVOLVES THINKING ABOUT LOTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS...

...FROM ETHNIC ORIGIN TO REGIONAL HISTORY, FOOD, CLIMATE, AND PHYSICS.

OKAY, FINE. BUT...

...WHAT ABOUT A TEACHER?

WHO WOULD BE OUR FACULTY SUPERVISOR?

STAFF ROOM

IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HISTORY ...

... LET'S INCLUDE THE HISTORY OF THE EVOLUTION OF ROBOTS!

AND KAIJU TOO!

AND TAKOYAKI!

YOU ALL JUST WANT TO MAKE A HANGOUT SPOT FOR YOUR OWN INTERESTS!

IT APPEARS MR. SANJOME IS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE ROLE.

YOU TWO SHOULD BE GRATEFUL.

WHO?

BATMAN

122. Let's Form a Club

SO, MR. SANJOME...

LIKE, WHY'RE YOU TAKING ON THE ROLE OF OUR ADVISOR?

I'M HAVING A HARD TIME REMEMBERING YOU...

...MR. SANJOME.

WHAT CLASS DO YOU TEACH?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT THIS SCHOOL?

THERE'S SOMETHING REAL SUS ABOUT THIS.

RMBL

RMBL

RMBL

HN?

VERY NICE.

WHEN YOU START TO FEEL GOOD, I'D LIKE YOU TO BLOW THE CONCH ONCE.

AND WHEN YOU CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...

DO WHAT NOW?

...

I GUESS?

WHAT-EVER IT TAKES?

UM...

YES?

...THAT CAPTURE YOUR INTEREST EVEN A LITTLE IS WONDERFUL.

YOUR WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE THINGS...

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ME THAT MUCH?

YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ME?

NIIICE...

WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?

IN THIS WORLD EXISTS EVERY CONCEIVABLE MYSTERY.

SPIRITS. PARANORMAL ABILITIES. URBAN LEGENDS. UFO'S. ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS. ALTERNATE WORLDS.

BUT OUR HUMAN LIVES ARE FAR TOO SHORT FOR THAT.

I WISH TO INVESTIGATE AND SOLVE THEM ALL.

...WHO SHARE THIS GOAL, IT MAY BE FASTER.

IF I WORK TOGETHER WITH THE MANY...

AND THEN IT OCCURRED TO ME.

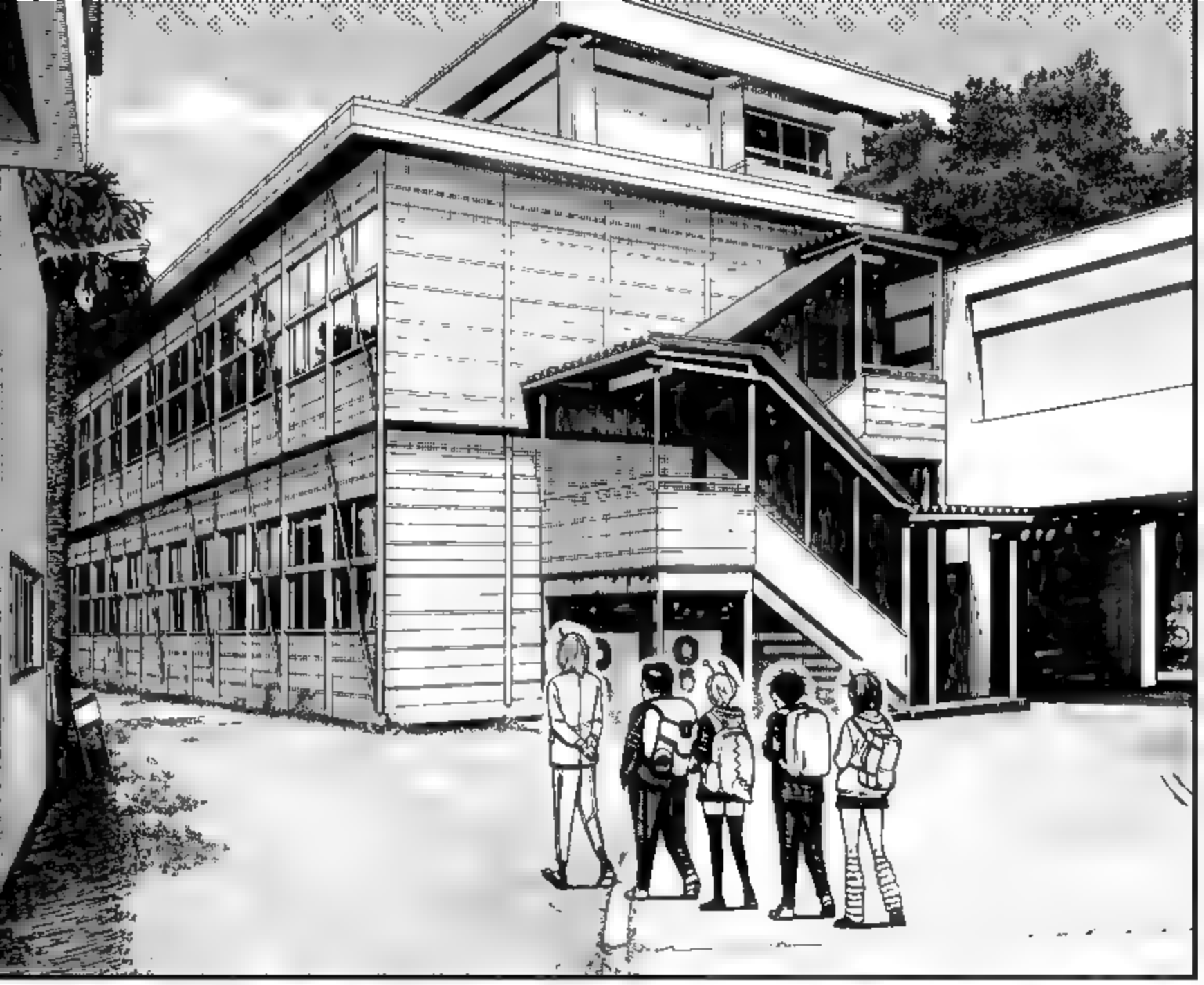
AND SO I AM UNDERTAKING THE ROLE OF ADVISOR FOR YOUR HISTORY AND CULTURE RESEARCH CLUB.

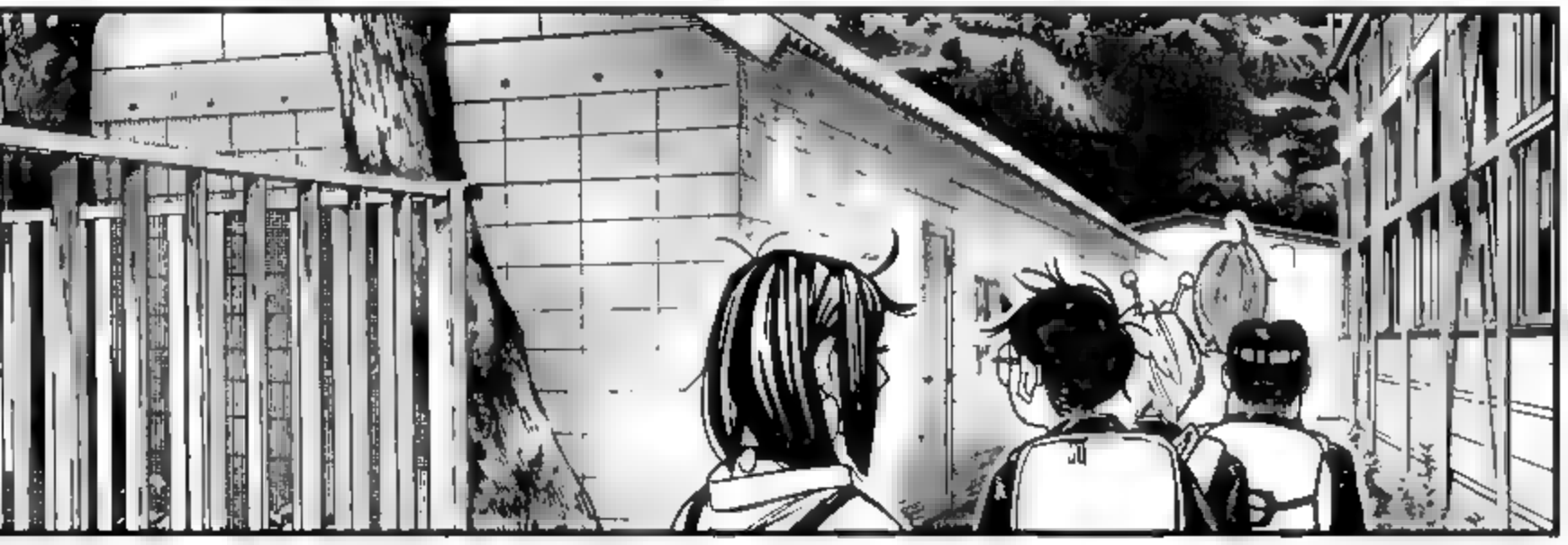
WAIT. NO.

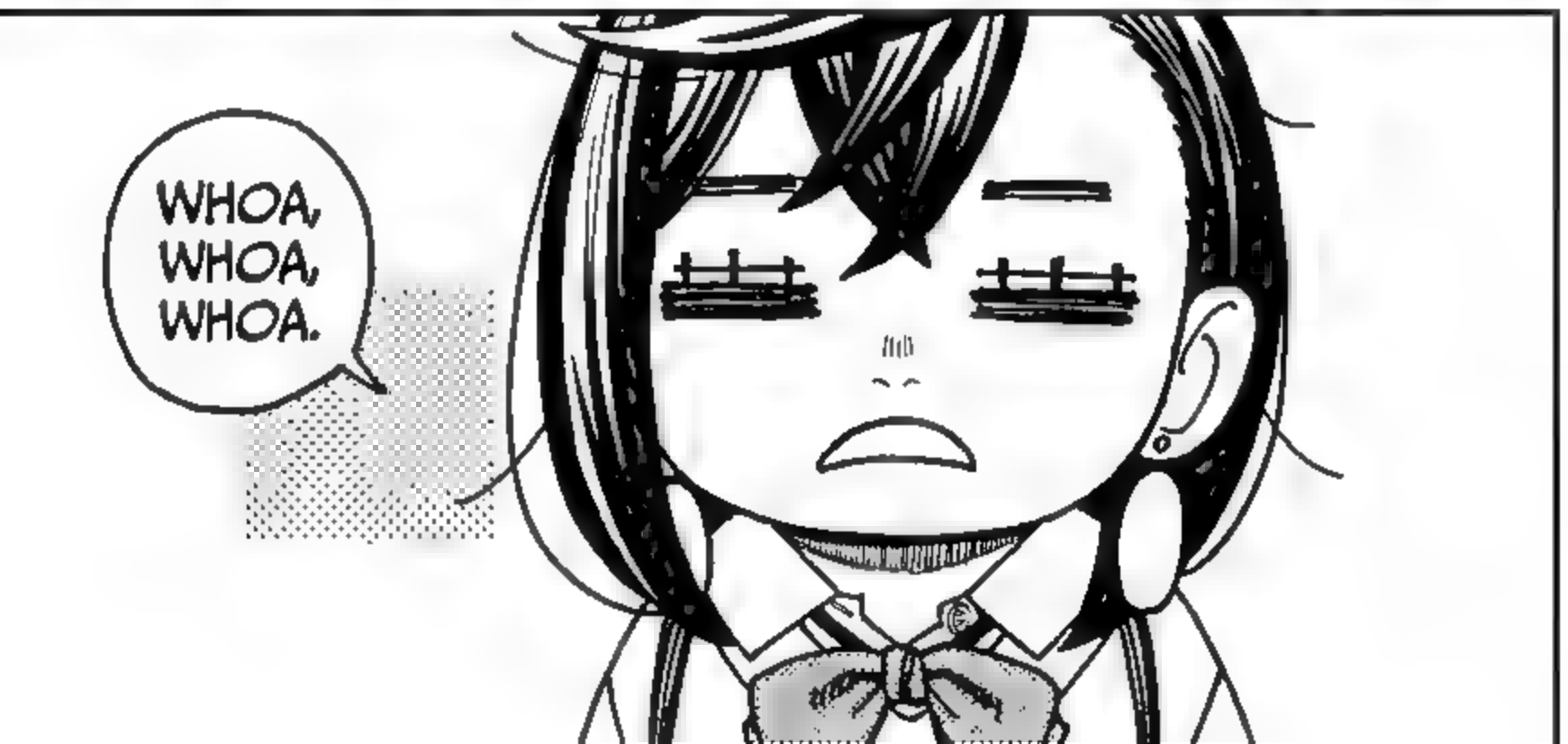
THE QUEST ITSELF IS THE CONDITION UPON WHICH I WILL BE YOUR ADVISOR.

PLEASE DO NOT DISAPPOINT ME.

LET ME SHOW YOU TO YOUR CLUBROOM. *NIIICE...*






WHOA, WHOA, WHOA.

MAKE YOUR-SELVES AT HOME.

FOR REAL?!

ISN'T THIS A STORAGE ROOM?!

YOU CAN PUT AWAY THE THINGS INSIDE AND USE IT.

PUT THEM AWAY *WHERE*?!

IF YOU COULD, PLEASE MOVE THEM TO THE NEWLY BUILT STOREHOUSE BEHIND THE SCHOOL BUILDING.

WHA?!

IS THE ONLY REASON OUR GROUP GOT APPROVED ...

...SO THAT YOU COULD GET US TO CARRY THIS STUFF?

HOLD UP! IS THIS HOW ADULTS DO THINGS?

NA-NA-NA-NA-*NIIICE!*

YOU'LL DO IT, YOU NIMROD!

LET US DO IT!

WHAT DO WE DO, YOUNG MISS?

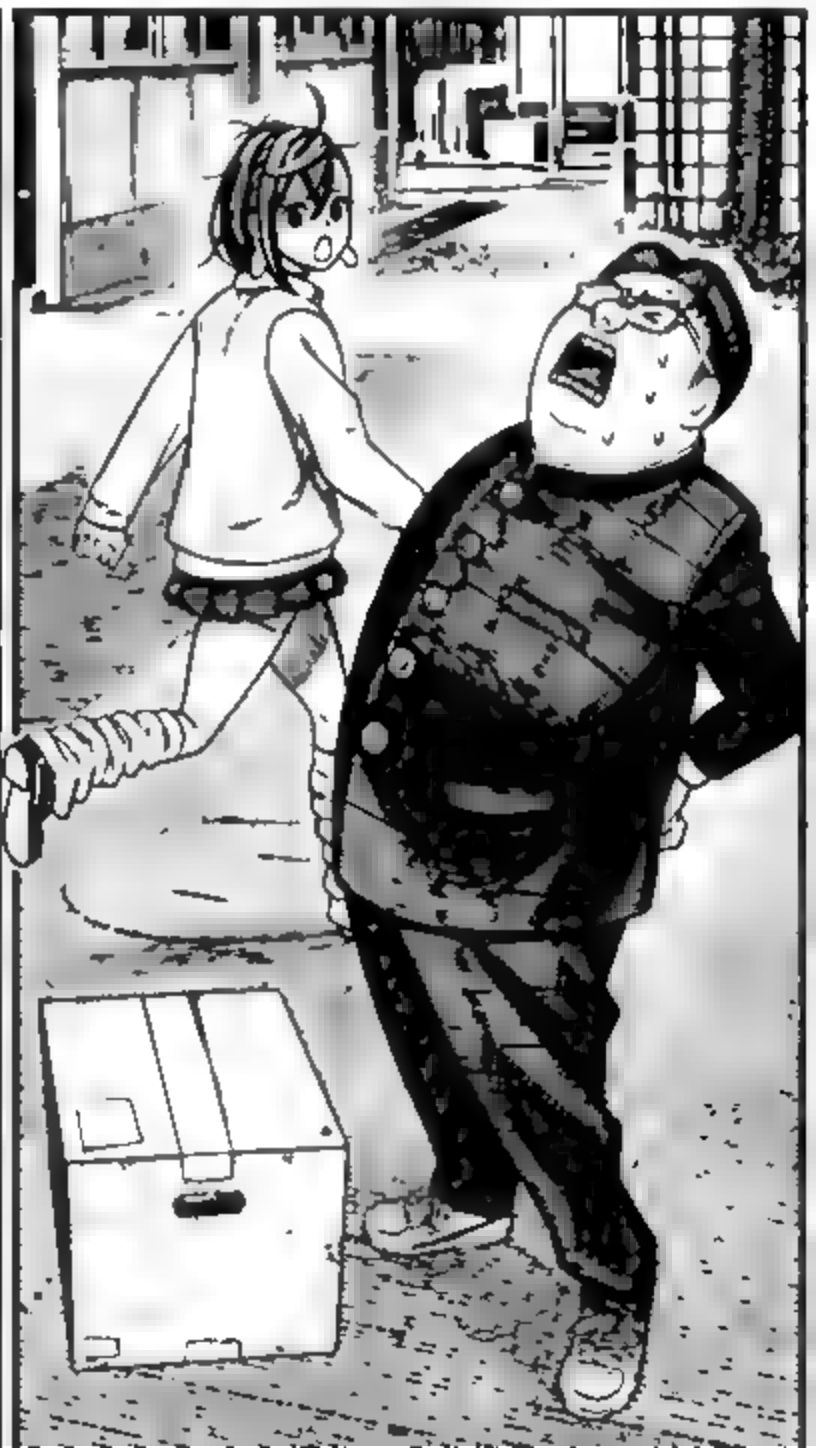
DO IT?

WOULD ANYONE?!

MISS AYASE, LET'S DO IT!

WHY?! THIS IS SO WEIRD!

I MEAN, IT TOTALLY IS!



WELL, I DON'T LIKE THE GUY!

AND WHERE DID HE COME FROM, ANYWAY?

WELL... HE MUST'VE BEEN AROUND.

MR. SANJOME SEEMS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER TEACHERS.

IS "MENACING" THE WORD?

IS IT?

THIS IS KINDA THRILLING!

...AND YET I SOMEHOW KNEW HIS NAME.

I DON'T REMEMBER EVER SEEING HIM BEFORE...

I MEAN, WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

GAAAH!

WHAT?

NO! LOOK AWAY!

UBPF!

YIKES! I SUDDENLY GOT ALL SELF-CONSCIOUS!

EVER SINCE I REVEALED MY FEELINGS IN FRONT OF VAMOLA...

WHAT DO I DO?! IT'S EATING AT ME MORE THAN EVER!

...WHEN I LOOK AT MISS AYASE...

...MY CHEST JUST...!

HOOH HOOH

REAL-ITY

HO-HUM

WHY DOESN'T HE SAY SOME-THING?!

HE DEFINITELY SAW THAT LETTER, DIDN'T HE?!

GLOOM GLOOM

OKARUN AS SEEN BY MOMO

OW ...

HMPH!

HUH?

UM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HMPH!

HMPH!

HMPH!

HMPH!

HMPH!

I SAID, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHAT? NOTHING.

NOTHING? BUT ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT WHAT? YOU KNOW ABOUT WHAT.

STARE

UM?! WHAT IS IT?

STAAARE

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!

YOU SAW IT, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU KNOW... IT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "IT"?

IT IS IT!

DON'T PLAY DUMB!

WE'VE GOTTA HURRY AND TIDY UP THE CLUBROOM!

DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!

IT! IT!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS!

IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT YOU'RE REFERRING TO!

YOU'RE A LIAR!

I KNOW YOU KNOW WHAT IT I MEAN!

PUT YOUR HANDS BY YOUR SIDE!

WHAT FOR?!

JUST DO IT! HMF! HMF!

I'M GONNA PUT THE LIE DETECTOR ON YOU RIGHT NOW.

HUH?! THE LIE WHAT?!

SEE?! YOUR HEART'S RACING LIKE CRAZY!

THAT MEANS YOU'RE LYING!

AS IF!

OF COURSE IT'S RACING!

HAVING A GIRL PRESSED AGAINST ME LIKE THAT?!

YOU NIM-ROD!

OW! OW!

SO! SO!

YOUR HEART WOULD RACE IF SOME *OTHER* GIRL DID IT?!

YES! IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, DOESN'T IT?!

WHAT-EVER!

...!

I CAN'T WORK UP ANY COURAGE AT ALL...

...IN FRONT OF MISS AYASE!

OH NO!

TAKA-KURA!

I'M PATHETIC ...

CLASS REP.

UM.. TAKA-KURA..

ARE YOU A VAMPIRE?

BATMAN

123. The Class Rep's Secret

A WHAT?

...ME ODD FOR SAYING IT, TAKAKURA...

YOU MAY THINK...

... BUT ...

...YOU LOOK LIKE A HANDSOME VAMPIRE TO ME!

...THERE ARE TIMES WHEN...

IT'S JUST, A LITTLE WHILE AGO...

...IT LOOKED TO ME LIKE YOU'D TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE...

I'M SO SORRY!

OH NO! I'VE GONE AND SAID IT!

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'M JUST BEING WEIRD! MAYBE!

...IT APPEARED THAT YOU'D TRANS-FORMED!

!

AND EARLIER TODAY, WHEN YOU WERE CARRYING THOSE THINGS...

I JUST SUDDENLY STARTED BEING ABLE TO SEE IT...

I DON'T KNOW...

WAS THERE SOMETHING THAT SET IT OFF?

UM, ABOUT WHEN DID I START LOOKING DIFFERENT TO YOU?

EVER SINCE I PICKED UP THAT GOLD BALL...

!!!

EEK!

CLASS REP! DO YOU HAVE IT WITH YOU?!

GOLD BALL?!

O-OH NO! I'M ABOUT TO BE BITTEN...

...BY A HANDSOME VAMPIRE!

THE NEXT TIME I WAKE UP...

...I'LL BE IN TAKAKURA'S GRAND CASTLE...

...MY HANDS AND FEET BOUND, ROBBED OF MY FREEDOM...

...WHILE TAKAKURA SLOWLY USES HIS HANDS...

...TO MAKE ME HIS PLAYTHING...

HE'LL SCOLD ME USING ALL MANNER OF VERBAL TORMENT...

...AND THERE'LL BE NOTHING I CAN DO...

...TO KEEP FROM BECOMING HIS NOURISHMENT!

YOU CAN READ MINDS TOO?!

EH?!

I WOULD DO NO SUCH THING.

LOOK, NEVER MIND ALL THAT!

DO YOU HAVE THE *FAMILY JEWEL* WITH YOU OR NOT?!

PLEASE SHAME ME NO FURTHER!

STOP!

YOU SAID ALL THAT OUT LOUD.

SORRY, MAYBE WE SHOULD STICK TO CALLING IT THE GOLD BALL.

... IS ...

... JEWEL ...

THE FAMILY ...

HFF HFF

BDMP

HFF HFF

THE FAM—!

BDMP

A POLICE BOX?!

IT LOOKED QUITE VALUABLE, SO...

I TOOK IT TO A POLICE BOX.

HFF HFF

IT'S... WELL, HOW DO I PUT THIS?

IT'S SORT OF LIKE A LUMP OF SPIRITUAL ENERGY...

AH! I MEAN ...

THAT GOLD BALL...

A POLICE BOX WOULD KEEP IT SAFE AS LOST PROPERTY!

THANK GOOD-NESS!

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH IT, TAKAKURA?

WHICH POLICE BOX WAS IT?

FORGET I SAID ANYTHING!

YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT KIND OF STUFF, RIGHT?

...IN SPIRITS!

I DO BELIEVE...

SINCE ABOUT THE TIME...

...I FOUND THAT GOLD BALL AND YOU STARTED LOOKING LIKE A VAMPIRE...

...I'VE BEEN STRUCK BY THIS INCREDIBLY UNPLEASANT FEELING.

YOU DO?

IN FACT ...

...THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT...

LIKE SOMEONE'S SUDDENLY LEAPT ONTO MY BACK...

...AND I FEEL SO WEIGHED DOWN...

...I CAN'T EVEN STAND UP STRAIGHT.

AND IT'S HAPPENING MORE AND MORE FREQUENTLY.

...SO I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING TO WORK UP THE COURAGE ...

...YOU'D THINK I WAS A WEIRDO...

BUT I WORRIED IF I SAID ANYTHING ...

OH, I SEE.

SINCE IT BEGAN AROUND THE TIME YOU STARTED LOOKING LIKE A VAMPIRE...

...I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOME KIND OF CONNECTION...

WELL, FROM NOW ON, LET'S FEEL FREE TO ASK EACH OTHER ANYTHING!

THERE'S LOTS I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TOO.

OKAY!

LOOKS LIKE IT WAS ALREADY COLLECTED.

HUH?

BY WHOM?!

I CAN'T REVEAL THAT.

IT'S PRIVATE INFORMATION!

IT WAS ALREADY COLLECTED ?!

HUH ?!

COME ON NOW.

AND DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT STEALING IT FROM THEM!

FOR SURE.

THEY WOULD ASK DETAILED QUES-TIONS...

...AND TO AN ORDINARY PERSON, IT WOULD JUST LOOK LIKE A GOLD BALL...

BUT WHO WOULD HAVE COLLECTED IT?

IT'S VERY STRANGE.

TO COLLECT LOST PROPERTY...

...YOU'D NEED TO SHOW PROOF IT WAS YOURS...

...TO GET IT BACK.

...AND IT'S STILL IN THAT POLICE BOX...

THERE'S ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT NO ONE COLLECTED IT...

...HOW I'D PROVE IT WAS MINE.

EVEN *I* DON'T KNOW...

DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE HE WAS LYING?

...WAS SUSPI-CIOUS, WASN'T HE?

THAT OFFI-CER...

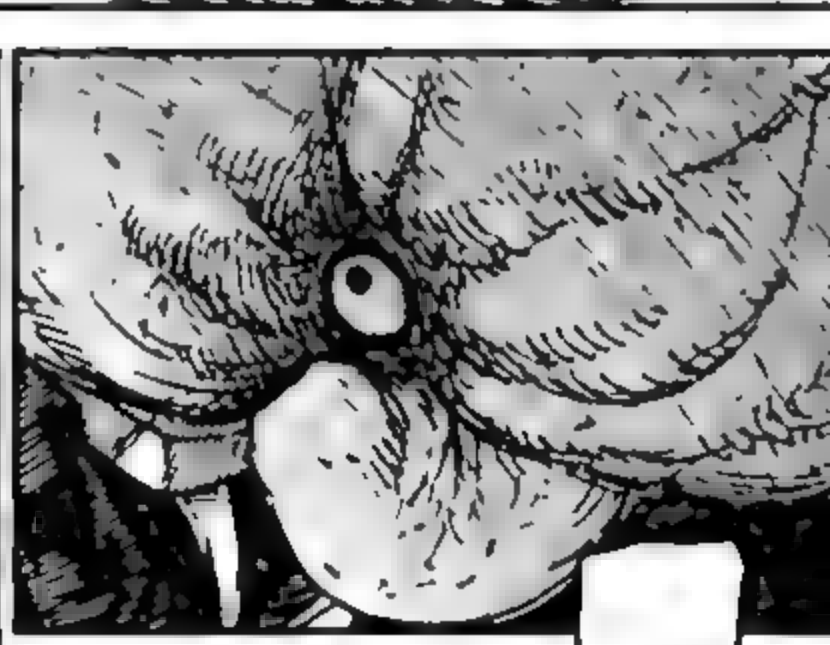
I'LL ASK MISS AYASE.

SHE'S ABLE TO SEE AURAS.

SO MAYBE THE GOLD BALL *IS* STILL THERE.

WE NEED TO CHECK AND MAKE SURE.

BUT ... ... HOW?



THAT'S ...!
THAT'S THE THING THE CLASS REP WAS TALKING ABOUT!

!!!

I PASSED RIGHT THROUGH IT!

MY ATTACKS DON'T WORK ON IT!

MOMO.

WHAT'RE YOU SO PISSED OFF ABOUT?

VAMOLA.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH HER AT SCHOOL?

WE HAD JAPANESE TODAY.

I SEE.

I'M NOT PISSED OFF.

RIGHT. LIKE YOU SHOULD TALK, *IDIOT.*

WHAT MORE COULD A DOOMED SON OF A BITCH HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT?

LEAVE IT. TAKE A BATH AND GO TO BED.

BRING IT ON, YOU STUPID CAT!

SHUT THE HELL UP!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOUR VOCAB'S AS WEAK AS NOODLES TODAY.

WOO-HOO!

I WON! I WON!

GRANNY, APOLOGIZE.

GRANNY! SIT DOWN WHEN IT'S DINNER-TIME!

FEELS GOOD!

WHY, YOU!

BOTH GRANNIES, STOP IT!

WHOA, WHOA. YOU WANNA GO?!

STAY OUT!

GAH!

SLAM

YOU'RE A GRANNY TOO, YOU OLD BAG!

GRANNY ?!

ORANGES

UUUGH!

WHY WOULD YOU SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT?!

I DON'T LIKE YOU ONE BIT!

MISS AYASE!

OKAY, I KNOW WHAT IT IS. I'LL SAY IT!

WAIT! PLEASE!

WHAT-EVER!

SAY WHAT? HMPH!

JOLT

MOMO!

IL—

FOUR-EYES IS HERE!

SHUT UP, YOU TURD!

SHOWING UP OUTTA THE BLUE.

OF ALL THE ...!

WHAT'S THIS? FEELING BETTER ALREADY? LAME!

SHUT IT.

Moon

Moon

WHAT IS IT?

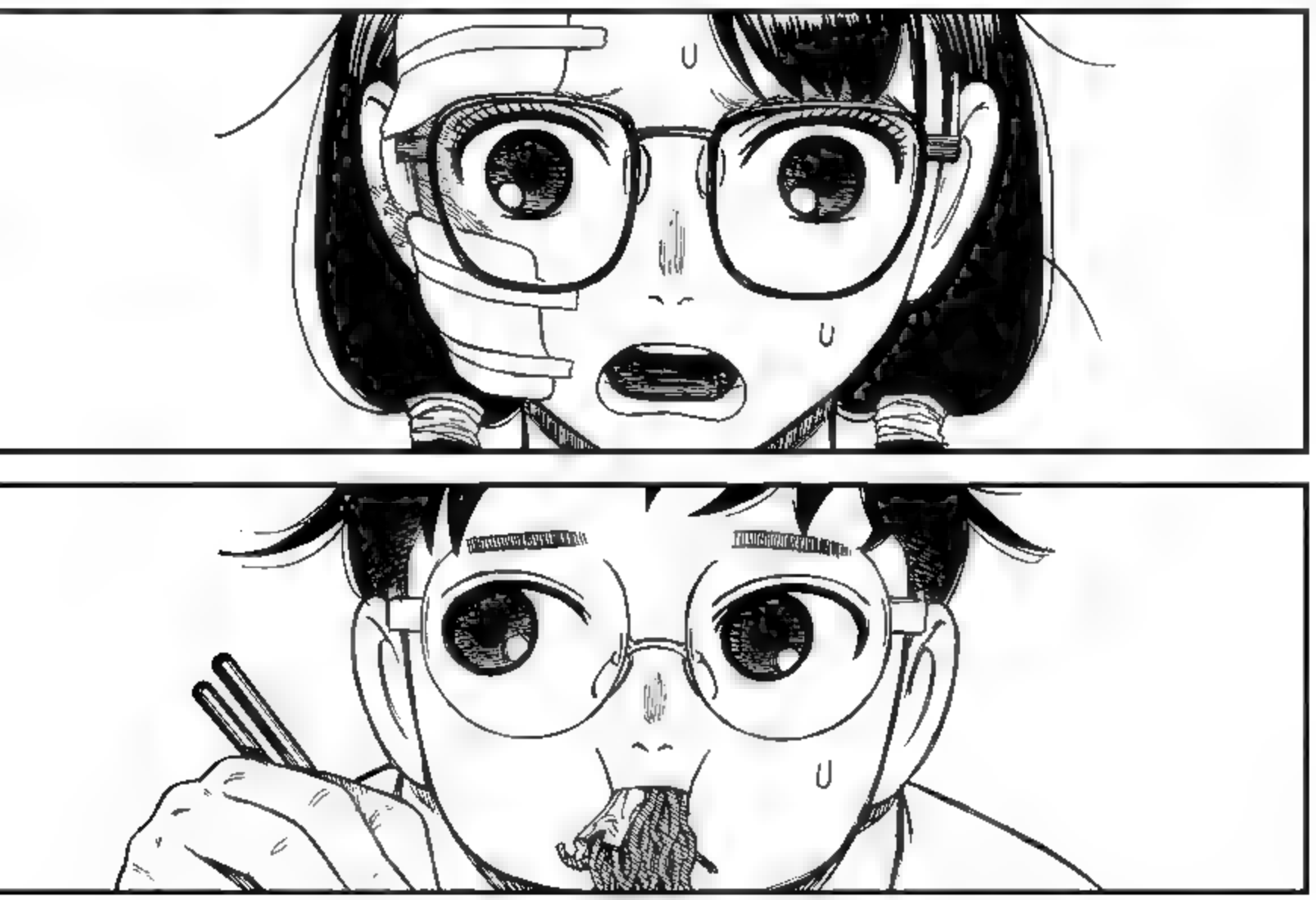
MOMO! IT'S REAL BAD!

IT'S THE CLASS REP!

WHAT THE CRAP?

BATMAN

124. Ombusman


HEY, YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?

HEY.

I ASKED WHAT YOU WERE STARING AT.

YOU WANNA GET YER ASS MURDERED? HUH?

EAT YOUR FILL.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE.

SO WHAT? GET OVER IT!

YOU'RE A TALKING CAT!

STOP.

NO MORE TEASING HER.

HEY.

I'M GONNA KILL YA IS WHAT I'M SAYIN'.

HOW ARE YOU ALL ACTING LIKE THIS IS NORMAL?!

THIS CAT! COULD IT BE...?!

!

COULD THIS BE THE DISGUISE ...

...OF A HANDSOME VAMPIRE?!

CAT VAMPIRE

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY IT CAN TALK.

HE'LL LOOK AT ME WITH LUSTFUL EYES...

...AND TALK DIRTY TO ME, MORE AGGRESSIVELY THAN TAKAKURA!

JUST STOP!

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!

IF YOU GLARE AT ME WITH SUCH SCORN, I'LL SIMPLY—

THIS CHICK IS CUCKOO BANANAS.

LOOK AT ME, YOU SHITHEAD.

Y-YES, SIR!

WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU LOOKING AT?

Y-YES, SIR!

WHO'RE YOU CALLING A VAMPIRE, BLOCK-HEAD?

I AIN'T ONE OF THOSE TURDS.

YOU CAN READ MY MIND?!

YOU REALLY *ARE* A VAM-PIRE!

YOU'RE SAYING EVERYTHING *OUT LOUD.*

IT'S AN *OMBUSMAN.*

OMBUS?

A YOKAI IN THE OLD DAYS THEY WERE CALLED "OLD MAN CRYING."

THEY CLIMB ONTO PEOPLE'S BACKS IN SEARCH OF LOVE.

IT'S THE SPIRIT OF A CHILD WHO DIED IN INFANCY.

IF THIS SPIRIT IS HANDLED WITH LOVE...

IT COULD FINALLY REST IN PEACE

BUT IF YOU KEEP IT AT A DISTANCE...

...ITS LOATHING WILL CONTINUE TO GROW...

...UNTIL IT CRUSHES THE HUMAN IT'S HAUNTING.

I HAVE NO SUCH THING!

I'VE NEVER EVEN HELD HANDS WITH A GENTLEMAN!

A BABY? YOU HAVE A *SECRET LOVE CHILD*?!

...THEN WE WON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.

IF I DON'T KNOW YOUR YOKAI'S ORIGIN...

SOMETHING MUST'VE HAPPENED. TELL US...

...ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD.

I LOST A FRIEND...

...AND IT WAS MY FAULT...

YOU'RE A SUPERGOOD SINGER!

SAWAKI, YOU'RE AMAZING!

BE MINDFUL OF NOISE

WOW! SING FOR US!

THAT ONE BY BONBON-ZAKA46!

YOU COULD TOTALLY GO PRO!

Y..

YOU THINK?

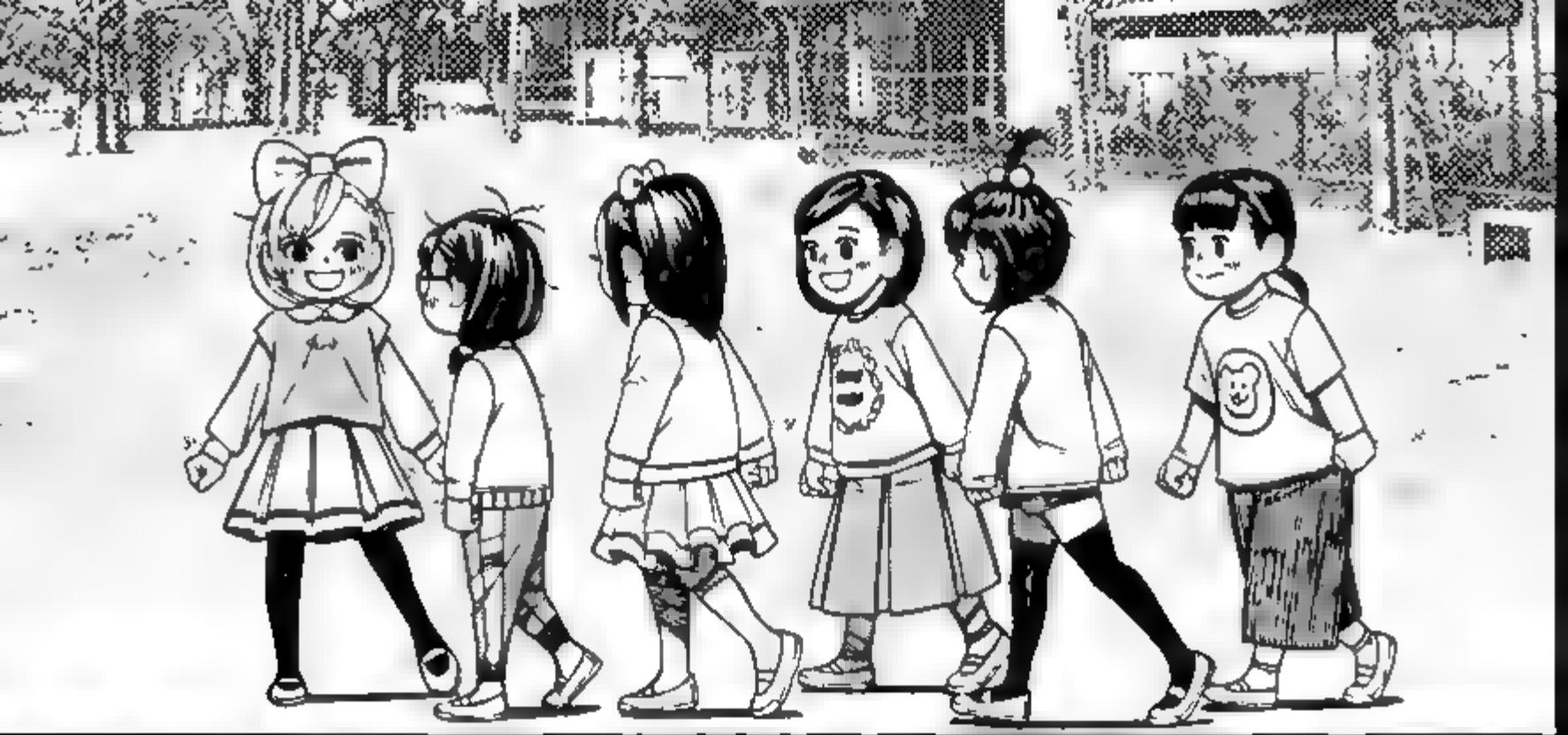
LET'S DO IT, SAWAKI!

I WANT TO BECOME AN IDOL!

...WE COULD BE AWESOME TOGETHER, DON'TCHA THINK?

...SO COMBINED WITH YOUR SINGING...

MY SPECIALTY'S, LIKE, DANCE...



IF WE GET SELECTED, WE COULD END UP ON TV AND STUFF!
I HEARD THERE ARE JUNIOR IDOL AUDITIONS COMING UP!

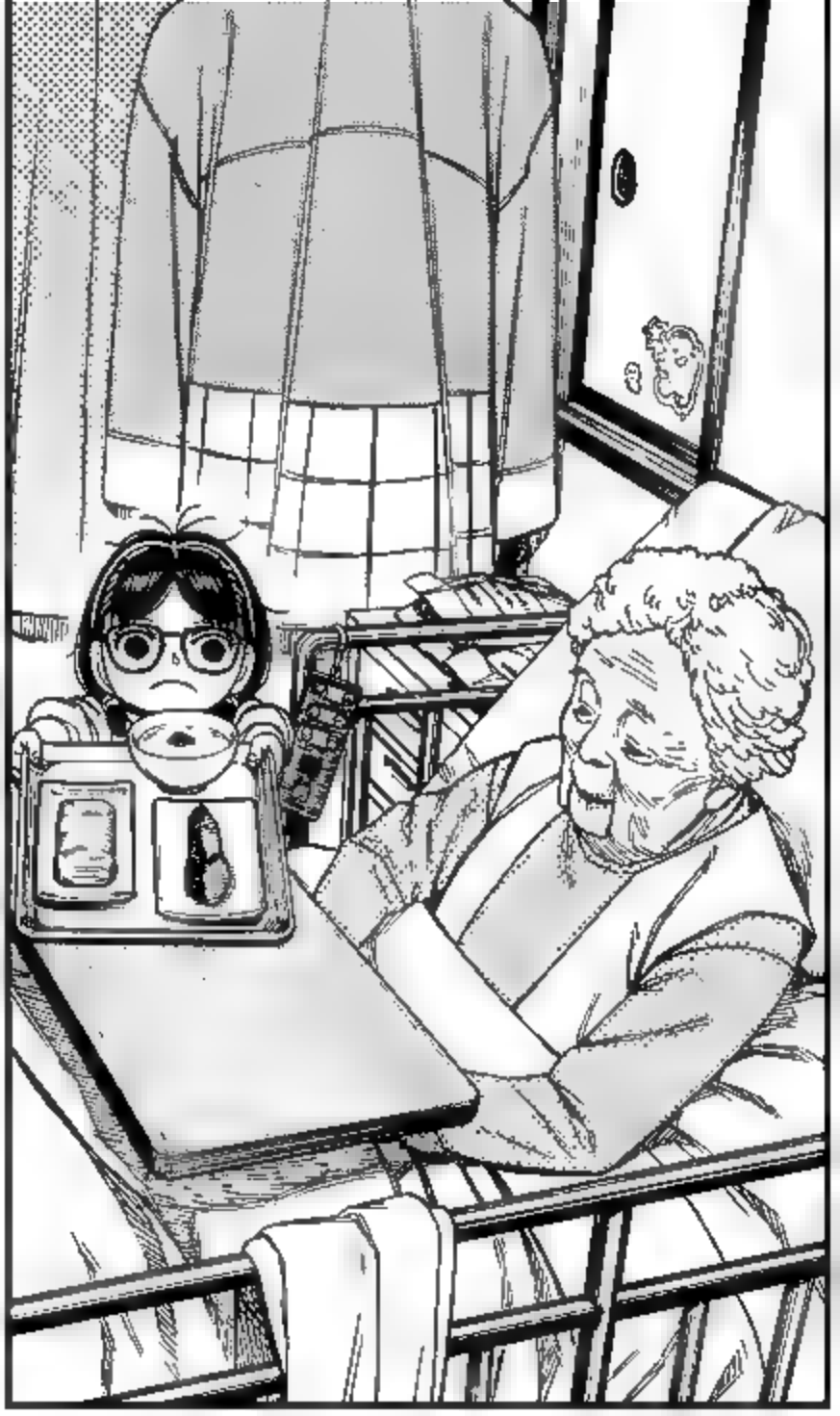
WE'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO TRY OUT!

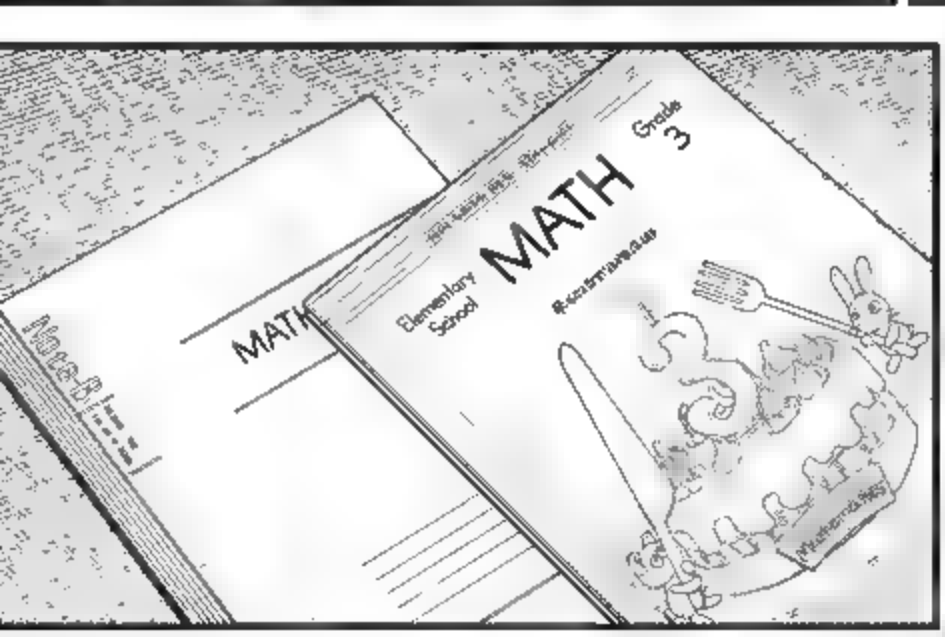
RIGHT, RIN?!

...

OKAY

...




MATH
Elementary School
MATH
Grade 3

YOU'RE ALWAYS SUCH A GREAT HELP.

THANK YOU, RIN.

WEL-COME BACK!

I'M HOME!

TADAMICHI IS NOT COMING BACK.

IS TADAMICHI NOT BACK YET?

MOTHER-IN-LAW, I'M HOME.

JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE.

I'LL GET YOU CLEANED UP.

I HAVE TO WORK ON SUNDAY MORNING.

SO IF YOU COULD PLEASE LOOK AFTER YOUR GRAND-MOTHER.

UH...

AH! THAT'S RIGHT!

MOM. ABOUT NEXT SUNDAY...

I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WORK IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU.

WHO WOULD DO THE COOK-ING?

I'M SO LUCKY TO HAVE YOU. YOU'RE A LIFESAVER.

...RIN.

THANK YOU AS ALWAYS...

KEI

ONE! TWO! THREE! FOUR!

SURE ...

THAT WAS REALLY COOL!

NOW WE'VE GOTTA SEE IF WE CAN SING WHILE DANCING TOO.

BUT WITH YOU HERE, RIN, WE CAN DO IT!

WE'LL PASS THE AUDITION FOR SURE, RIGHT?!

LET'S DO IT, RIN!

LIM... MAI.

I...

...CAN'T GO TO THE AUDITION...

HUH?! WHY NOT?!

WE'RE DOING SUPER-GOOD!

HOW COME ?!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING THERE!

MY MOM'LL DRIVE US TO THE VENUE.

WE'LL COME PICK YOU UP AT EIGHT THAT MORNING!

IT'S NOT THAT...

I'VE GOTTA, LIKE, CLEAN THE HOUSE...

...AND COOK, AND DO THE LAUNDRY...

I CAN'T GET OUT OF IT...

IT'S WEIRD!

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE LYING!

YOUR MOM'S JUST BEING LAZY!

MY MOM WORKS...

YOUR MOM CAN DO THOSE THINGS!

BUT IT'S SUNDAY!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR DAD?!

IS WHAT YOU'RE DOING REALLY SO GREAT?!

WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING AN IDOL ANYWAY?!

YOU'RE THE WORST!

SAY WHAT?!

HUH?!

...WAS TO USE HER POPULARITY!

THE ONLY REASON YOU HUNG OUT WITH MAI...

THAT'S RIGHT!

YEAH!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S WRONG, BACKING OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE!

UGH!

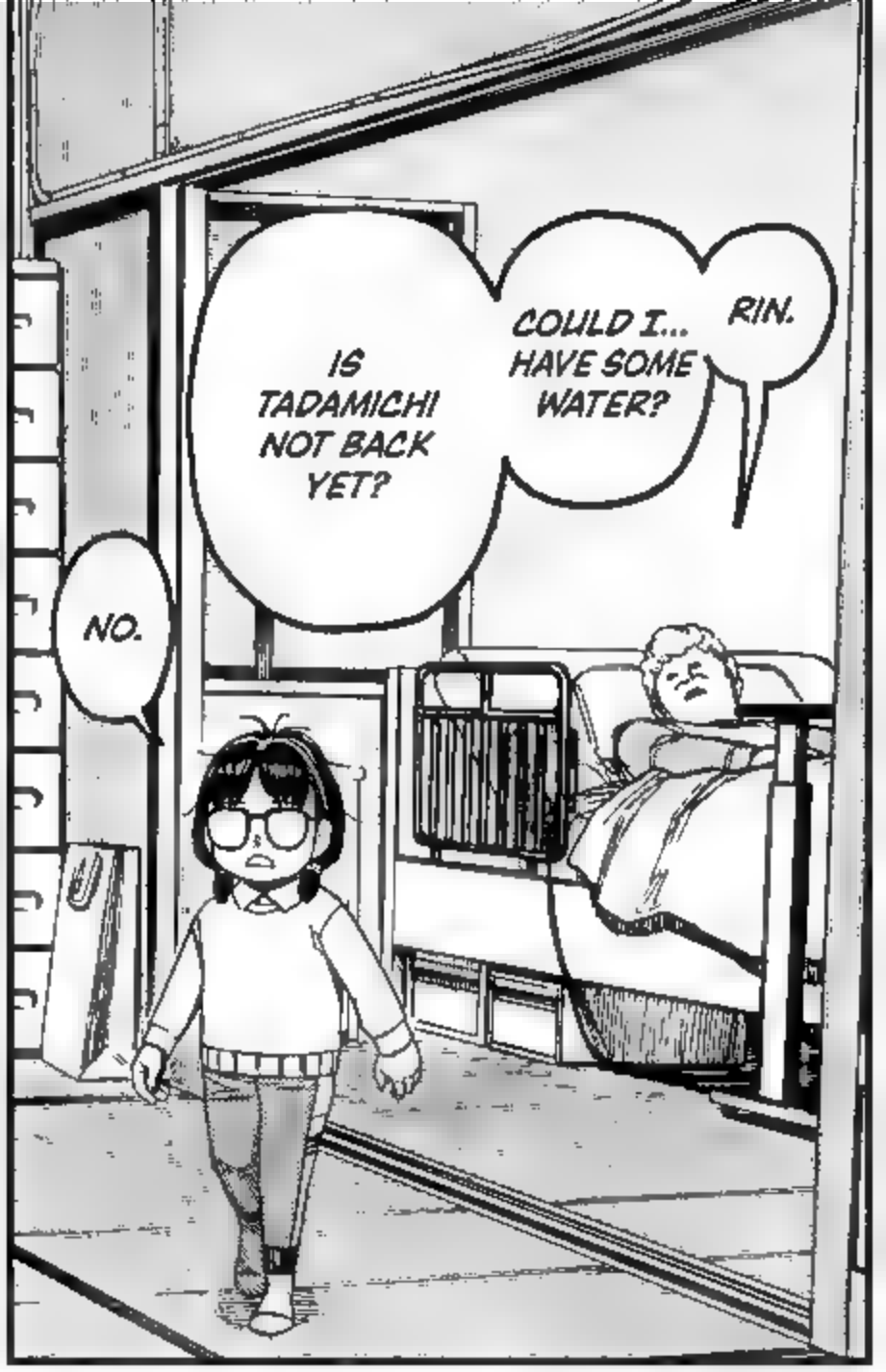
...WITH MAI, DID YOU?

YOU NEVER WANTED TO BECOME AN IDOL...

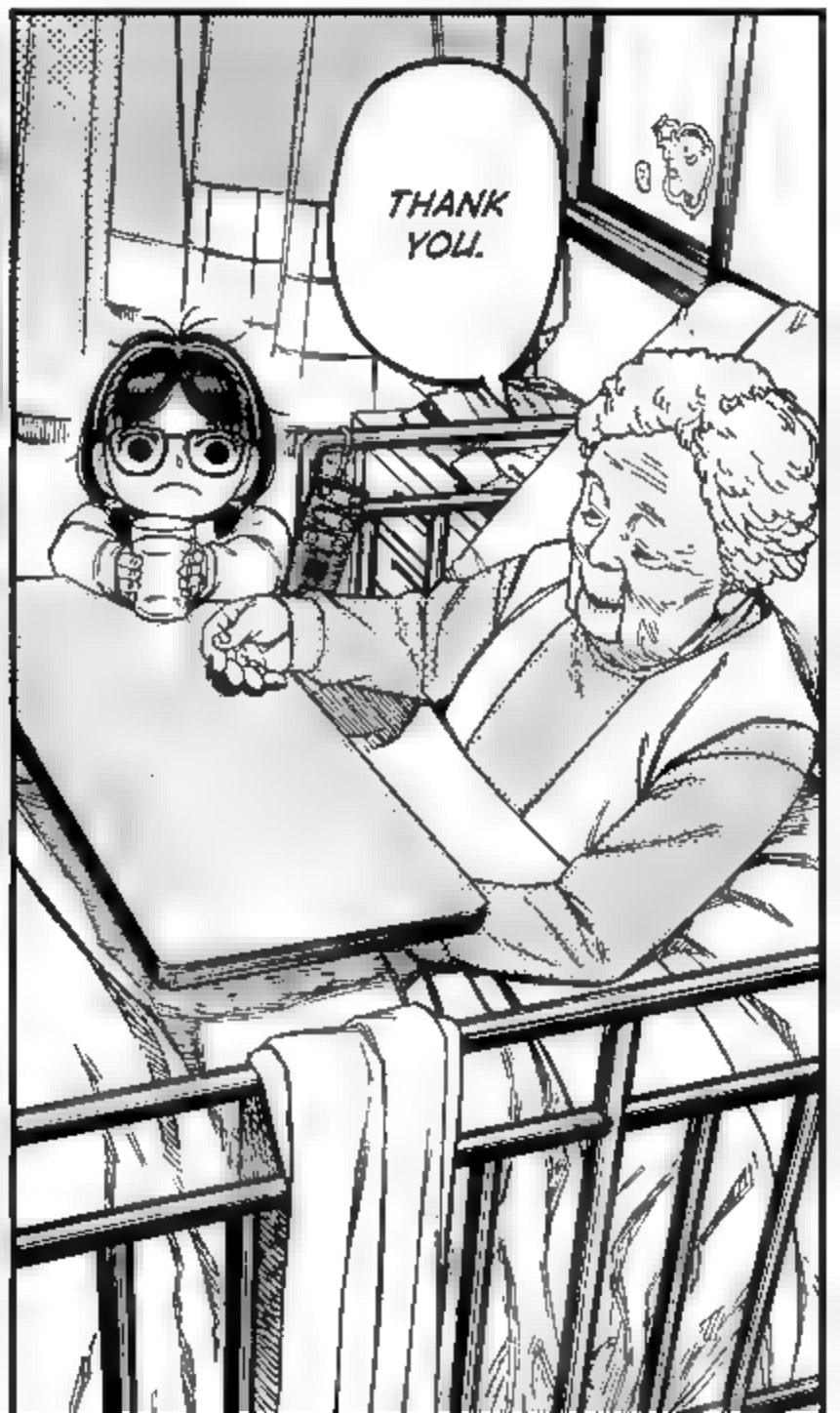
YOU TRAITOR!

WE SHOULD'VE NEVER MADE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE LIKE HER.

WHAT A WASTE OF TIME!


RIN.
COULD I... HAVE SOME WATER?
IS TADAMICHI NOT BACK YET?
NO.

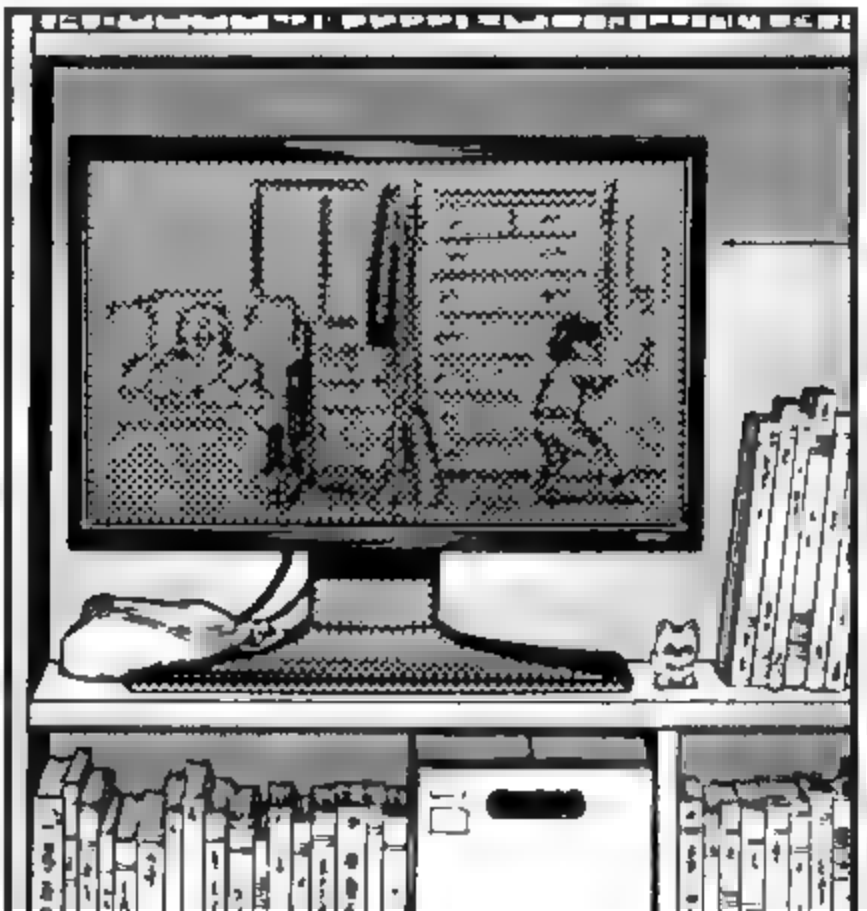
I'M SORRY, RIN.
YOU PROBABLY WANT TO BE OUT PLAYING WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.


THANK YOU.

I LIKE STAYING HOME AND READING BOOKS.

BATMAN

125. Let's Do an Exorcism



RI!!!

!

SAWAKI RESIDENCE.

YES, HELLO?

THIS IS MAI'S MOM.

HELLO ?!

RIN ?!

WE'RE AT THE AUDITION VENUE...

...BUT MAI'S SO NERVOUS, SHE'S FROZEN UP.

SOME OF HER OTHER FRIENDS ARE HERE ENCOURAGING HER, TELLING HER IT'LL BE OKAY...

...BUT SHE WON'T BUDGE AN INCH.

SHE SAYS SHE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU, RIN.

I CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR MOTHER.

BUT RIN...

...COULD YOU DO THE AUDITION WITH HER?

...

RIGHT NOW...

... I'M ...

RUN ALONG NOW.

I'M A GROWN-UP, YOU KNOW.

I CAN AT LEAST STAY AT HOME ON MY OWN.

YOU HAVE TO LIVE YOUR LIFE WITHOUT REGRETS.

I SAID I WOULD GO TO THE AUDITION.

SO...

...MAI'S MOTHER HEADED OVER TO PICK ME UP...

BUT ON THE WAY...

...THERE WAS AN ACCI-DENT...

...WAS IN THE CAR TOO.

MAI...

...I WOULD GO TO THE AUDITION...

HAD I NOT SAID...

...THEN MAI...

MOON

...YOUR SUPERNATURAL SENSITIVITY, ALLOWING YOU TO FEEL HER PRESENCE.

MY GUESS IS THAT THE FAMILY JEWEL HAS AWAKENED...

IT WOULD SEEM THIS MAI KAWA-BANGA...

...HAS TURNED INTO AN OMBUSMAN.

THAT SAID, DO NOT LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

THEIR *FIXATION* TURNS INTO *RESENT-MENT*...

...ONLY A HATRED IS LEFT THAT PREVENTS THEM FROM LETTING GO OF THEIR REGRETS.

THEIR MEMORIES FROM WHEN THEY WERE ALIVE GRADUALLY FADE UNTIL ...

...AND THEY TURN INTO CREATURES THAT INEVITABLY KILL THEIR HOSTS.

...MAI KAWABANGA WILL END UP KILLING YOU.

IF YOU JUST LEAVE HER BE...

THE OMBUSMAN IS COWARDLY. STAYING HIDDEN IS ITS FORTE.

WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO DRAW IT OUT.

BUT I'VE BEEN WATCHING HER AURA FOR A WHILE NOW...

AN OMBUSMAN IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU'D THINK.

...AND I DON'T SEE ANYTHING THAT LOOKS LIKE AN EVIL SPIRIT.

MOON

...AT THE AUDITION VENUE.

SO RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO GO DISPEL THAT...

THE REGRET SHE'S HOLDING ONTO IS PROBABLY OVER THE AUDITION.

YOU'VE HEARD OF THE SEVEN MYSTERIES, RIGHT?

THERE ARE LOTS OF SPIRITS AT THIS SCHOOL.

WHY ARE WE AT SCHOOL?!

ACTUALLY, WHERE'S VAMOLA?

VAMOLA IS A FEEBLE CHILD.

SHE'S STAYING AT HOME WITH TURBO GRANNY.

YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG. VAMOLA'S SUPER TOUGH!

THE OMBUS-MAN IS THE SPIRIT OF A CHILD.

IT'LL BE EASIER TO GET IT TO SHOW ITSELF IN A PLACE WITH LOTS OF SPIRITS AROUND.

GYAAAH!!!

YOOOOOOO!

LET'S DO THIS! WOO!

IT'S BEEN A VERY LONG TIIME!

GOOD, YOU'RE HERE!

LET'S GET STARTED, THEN!

BDUM

BDUM

THE HAYASHI BAND ?!

WHY'RE *THEY* HERE ?!

WHAT ?!

WHAT ?

WHAT ?

WHAT ?

WHAT ?

MOON

MS. SEIKO! WE HAVE ARRIVED!
HUP, TWO!
THREE! FOUR!
HUP, TWO!
IT IS?!
THIS IS HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET TO THE AUDITION VENUE!
A PARADE FLOAT?! BUT WHY?!
NICE WORK! PARK 'ER RIGHT THERE!

THE OMBUSMAN CAN MANIPULATE GRAVITY!

IT DRAWS OTHER EVIL SPIRITS TO ITSELF, GROWING MASSIVE...

...AND THEN CRUSHES THE HUMAN IT'S HAUNTING UNDER THE SHEER WEIGHT!

THE INSTANT THE OMBUSMAN LEAVES RIN BECAUSE OF THE HAYASHI PERFORMANCE ...

...ALL THE SPIRITS IN THE SCHOOL WILL BE DRAWN TO IT, AND THEN THEY'LL ATTACK!

...IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET HER TO REMEMBER WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE.

...AND AS WE DO, WE'LL PASS THE SITE OF MAI KAWABANGA'S ACCIDENT...

START

WE'LL KEEP EVADING THEM...

THEN WE'LL SPRINT STRAIGHT TO THE AUDITION VENUE!

GOAL

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS

AS IN, BY MY-SELF?!

YOU'RE ON FLOAT-PULLING DUTY!

AS IF YOU COULD DO THIS YOURSELF, LAD!

GET IN!

ALL RIGHT, LETS ROCK!

FOUR-EYES! YOU STAY THERE!

ME?!

URGH!

!!!

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY ?!

GYA-AAA-AGH!

!!!

THERE IT IS!

THE OMBUS-MAN!

YO! BRING IT ON!

ARE YOU MOFOS READY TO ROCK?!

YO! BRING IT ON!

YO!

YO! BRING IT ON!

YO!

RMBL RMBL

ROLL OUT!

HEY! THEY'RE HERE!

HOLD ON! WAIT UP!

MM

RMBL RMBL

GIVE BACK!

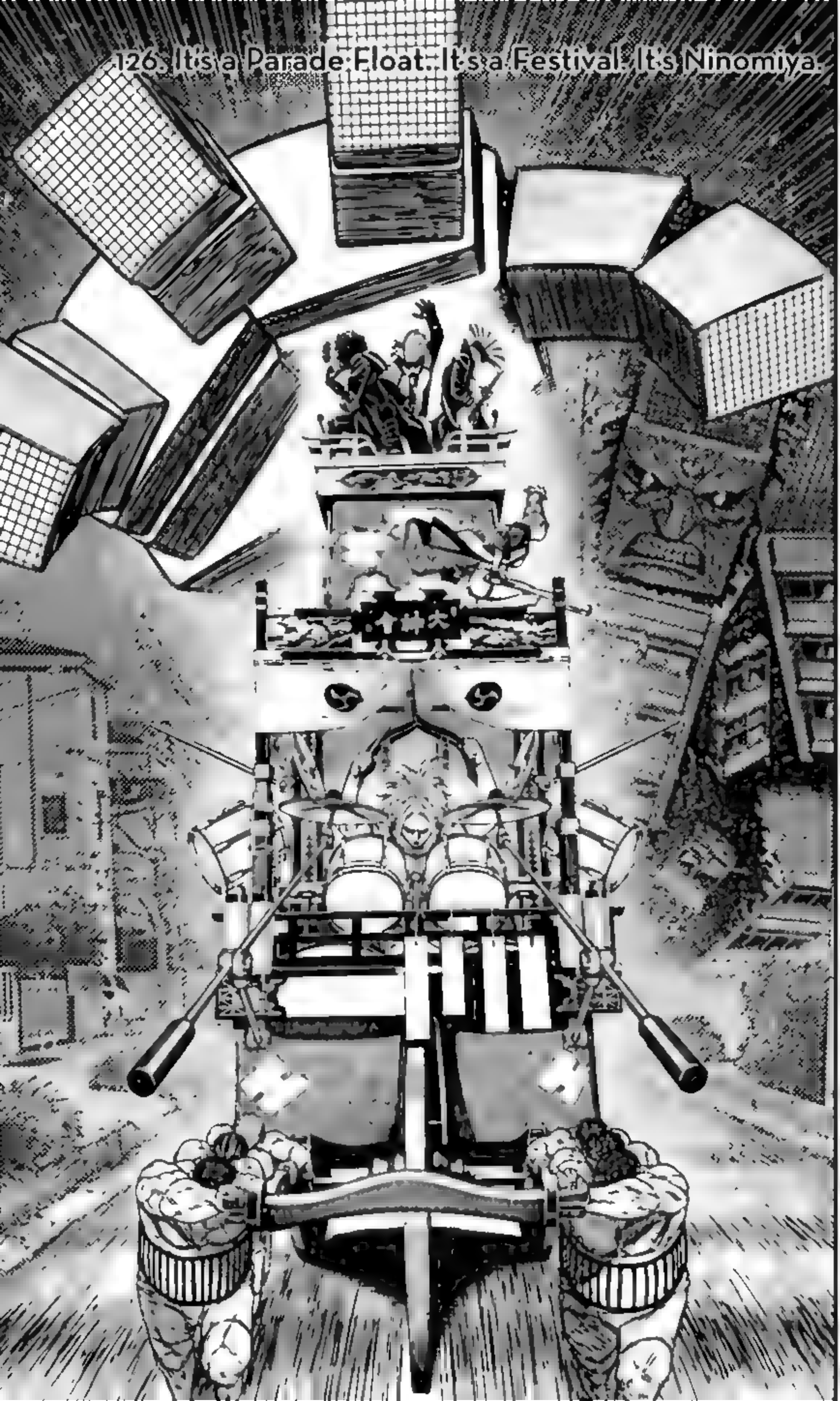
GIVE BACK!

RMBL RMBL RMBL RMBL

HEAVE-HO!

BATMAN

126. It's a Parade Float. It's a Festival. It's Ninomiya.



WE'RE GONNA GET CRUSHED !!!

MOSN

WAAAIT!

WHOA!!!

THE HAYASHI BAND'S PERFOR-MANCE IS FORMING A BARRIER!

WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE BIG GUY!

BAD-ASS!

WAIT! THAT KINJIRO NINOMIYA STATUE IS CARRYING IT ON HIS *BACK*?!

IT'S THE *LITTLE TWERPS* WE HAVE NO DEFENSE AGAINST!

LITTLE TWERPS?

DANG!

THEY'RE THERE TOO!

MOMO!

GUARD UP!

UGH?!

STEP ON IT!

YOWWW!

YOWWW!

IT'S ALREADY NOT WORKING! LOOK AT THEM ALL!

IF THEY GET TAKEN OUT, THE BARRIER IS TOAST!

MOWOW! PROTECT THE BAND!

THE MESH OF THE BARRIER IS UNEVEN!

LITTLE THINGS CAN SLIP THROUGH!

TURD NUGGETS!

OKAY! I'M GUARDING THEM!

HOW'RE THE WHEELS?!

HOLD ON TIGHT!

EEEK!

I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY-MORE!

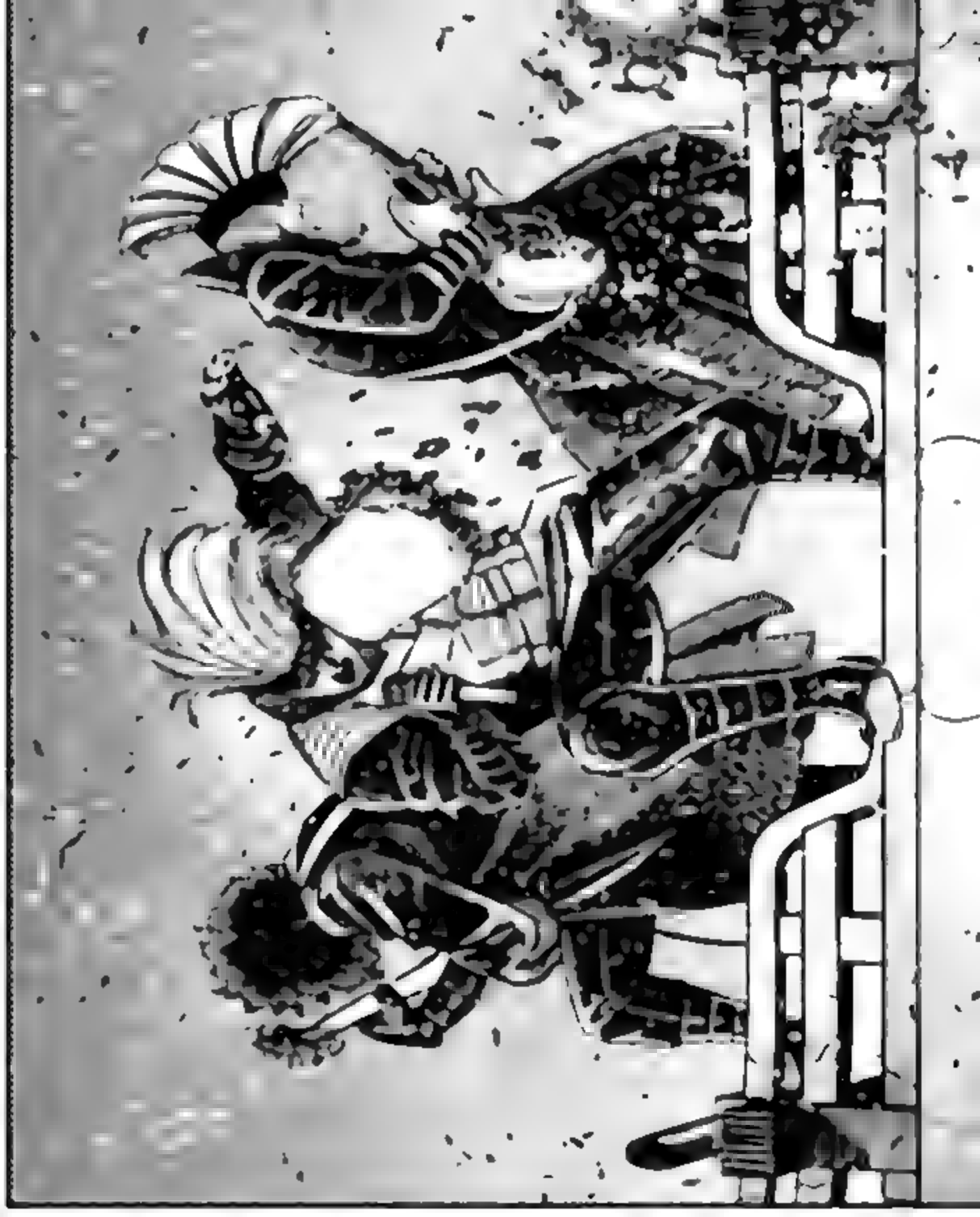
OUR OBJECTIVE ISN'T TO TAKE IT OUT!

WE NEED TO SEE TO IT THAT THE OMBUSMAN CAN FINALLY REST IN PEACE, AND WE MUST DO IT WITH LOVE!

THE NINOMIYA ARE COMING OUT OF THE WOOD-WORK!

WE CAN'T HOLD THEM ALL OFF!

GRANDMA, CAN'T YOU TAKE THAT BIG ONE OUT?!



CONK

OUCH!

THEY GOT THE VOCALIST!

WHAT'S WRONG?! WHAT HAPPENED ?!

AH!

NO!

KEEP PLAY-ING!

THE BARRIER!

GRANDMA, WHAT DO WE DO?!

HE'S OUT COLD!

OH NO!

OKAY!

RIN!

GRAB THAT MIC!

SO HIGH! SO HIGH!

HFF! HFF! YIKES!

LOWER THE VOCALIST DOWN TO WHERE IT'S SAFER!

GYAAAH!

THE POWER OF NESSIE!

GRANDMA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

ME?!

I'M... I-I CAN'T!

MOMO! PLACE HIM INSIDE, DOWN THERE!

HOLD ON!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN DO IT!

NOW SING!

... RIN!!!

!!!

NOW YOU SING...

EVER SINCE MAI'S ACCIDENT ...

I CAN'T SING!

...I CAN'T SING!

WITHOUT THE SONG, THIS THINGS'S SUDDENLY GOTTEN REAL HEAVY!

IT'S DRAGGING ME DOWN!

URP!

BLURF!

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM ME!

UH-OH!

NICE ONE, MOMO-CHAN!

OOF!

I GOT IIIT!

HYAH!

TOTAL BUMMER.

HFF HFF

THE REST IS UP TO YOU, LAD!

CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER!

HFF HFF

ME TOOO!

MISS SEIKO! PLEASE GO ON A DATE WITH MEEE!

OH NO!

BATMAN

127. Float Performance Face-Off

MOON

AAAH!

AAAH!

AAAH!

RIN!

SING!

NOT JUST ANYONE CAN PERFORM IN A HAYASHI BAND!

HFF

HFF

I CAN'T DO IT!

I CAN'T SING!

I WANT TO, BUT...!

EVERY TIME I TRY...

AH!

UGH!

BLURF!

TRAITOR.

I'M NOT!

YOU KEPT SAYING IT.

"WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT IDOLS?"

MAKING FUN OF MY DREAMS.

THAT'S NOT WHY!

I SAID THAT BECAUSE YOU WERE ALL INSULTING MY MOM!

YOU WERE JUST AFRAID OF BEING LEFT OUT BY YOUR FRIENDS.

YOU TURNED INTO A TOTAL PEOPLE PLEASER

NO!

I WANTED TO GO TO THE AUDITION WITH ALL OF YOU!

BUT...

...MY FAMILY'S IMPORTANT TOO!

THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO ABOUT IT!

WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE?!

PLEASE TELL ME!

THAT'S IT, RIN!

?!

MAKE THEM INTO A SONG AND HIT 'EM WITH IT!

JUST LET ALL THOSE EMOTIONS OUT!

LET EVERYONE HEAR ABOUT THEM ALL!

THE ANGER! THE OUTRAGE!

THOSE FEELINGS ROILING INSIDE YOU!

AND WITHOUT EVER COM-PLAINING ONCE!

...YOU'VE MADE ALL THIS EFFORT!

... YOUR FRIENDS ...

FOR YOUR FAMILY ...

I KNOW YOU WORKED SO VERY HARD!

BUT IF YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE TO SUFFER...

...THEN THAT'S NOT RIGHT!

RIN, SING!

SING YOUR FEEL-INGS!

PUT THEM INTO SONG!

OH NO!

GRANDMA, PLEASE DO SOME-THING!

I'M AT MY LIMIT!

WOOSH

WE'RE GONNA BE WASHED!

HA HA HA!

MOMO! WE NEED A CUSHION!

WE'RE FALL-ING!

MAN, THE CLASS REP CAN SURE WAIL!

IT'S AWE-SOME!

TOTALLY ROCKIN'!

NICE LAND-ING!

DID YOU SEE THAT ?!

MAI, I'M SORRY!

I KNOW YOU RESENT ME.

...MY SONG, DO YOU?

YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR...

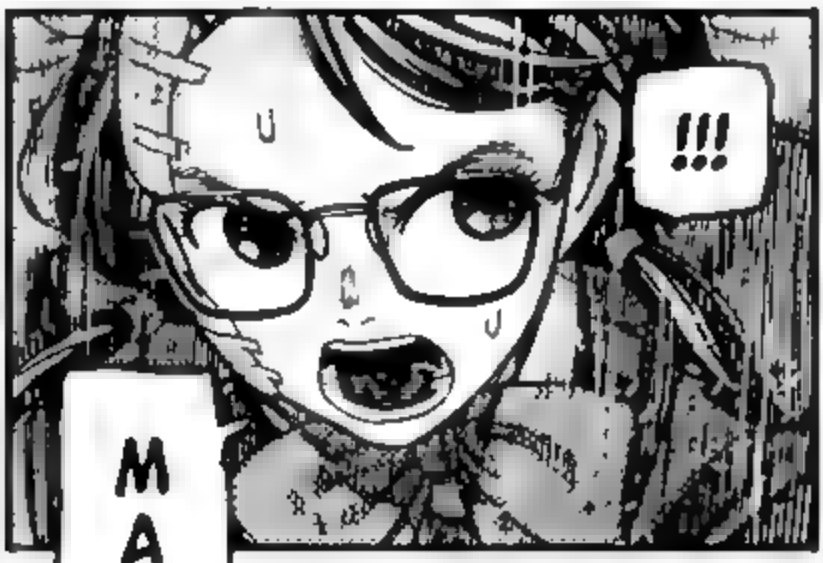
BUT I WAS SERIOUS!

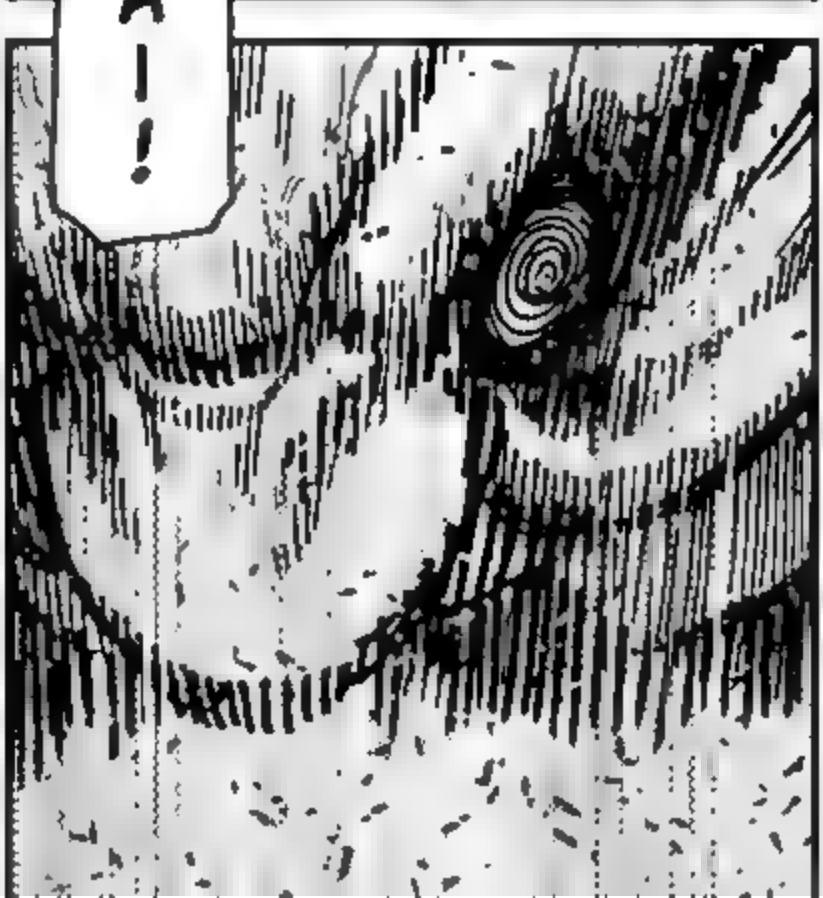
I WANTED TO BECOME AN IDOL ALONG WITH YOU...

I'M NOT LYING ABOUT THESE FEELINGS!

BATMAN

128. Let's Be Idols





OH NO!

THE OMBUS-MAN IS GROWING EVEN LARGER!

CLASS REP! WHAT'S WRONG?!

WHY'D YOU STOP SINGING?!

THE BIG GUY'S STILL AFTER US!

BACK ON YOUR FEET!

UGH...

GUH!

I CAN'T!

SHE'S PRESSING DOWN ON MY BACK...

MY VOICE!

MA!

IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME...

...THEN SAY IT!

I KNOW YOU'RE HOLDING A GRUDGE AGAINST ME...

BUT LISTEN!

I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY TOO!

AND I'M GOING TO DOUBLE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY BACK TO YOU!

THERE IT IS!

WE'RE IN SIGHT OF THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT!

ONCE WE REACH IT...

...THE OMBUSMAN'S MEMORIES FROM BEFORE IT BECAME AN EVIL SPIRIT SHOULD BE REVIVED!

THERE'S NO WAY! THERE'RE SO MANY!

WE NEED TO HOLD OUT UNTIL WE GET THERE!

WHUH?!

GYAH! HERE THEY COME!

I... WILL... KILL... YOU...

!!!

WAIT ...

BUT WHAT'S PULLING THE FLOAT ?!

NICE ONE, OKA-RUN!

THE LAW OF INERTIA!

I'M COMING WITH YOU!

MAI, YOU WAIT OUT HERE WITH YOUR FRIENDS!

I'LL GO PICK UP RIN AND COME BACK!

YOU CAN'T!

NO!

I JUST HAVE TO COME TOO!

YOU'LL BE FINE! JUST HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH.

IF THEY CALL YOUR NAME, YOU GO ON IN WITHOUT ME.

I...

I SAID SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS TO HER!

I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO RIN!

...HOW TOUGH SHE HAD IT!

I COULDN'T UNDER-STAND...

I CAN'T STAND BY HER SIDE WITH THINGS AS THEY ARE NOW!

HOW CAN I BE HER FRIEND?!

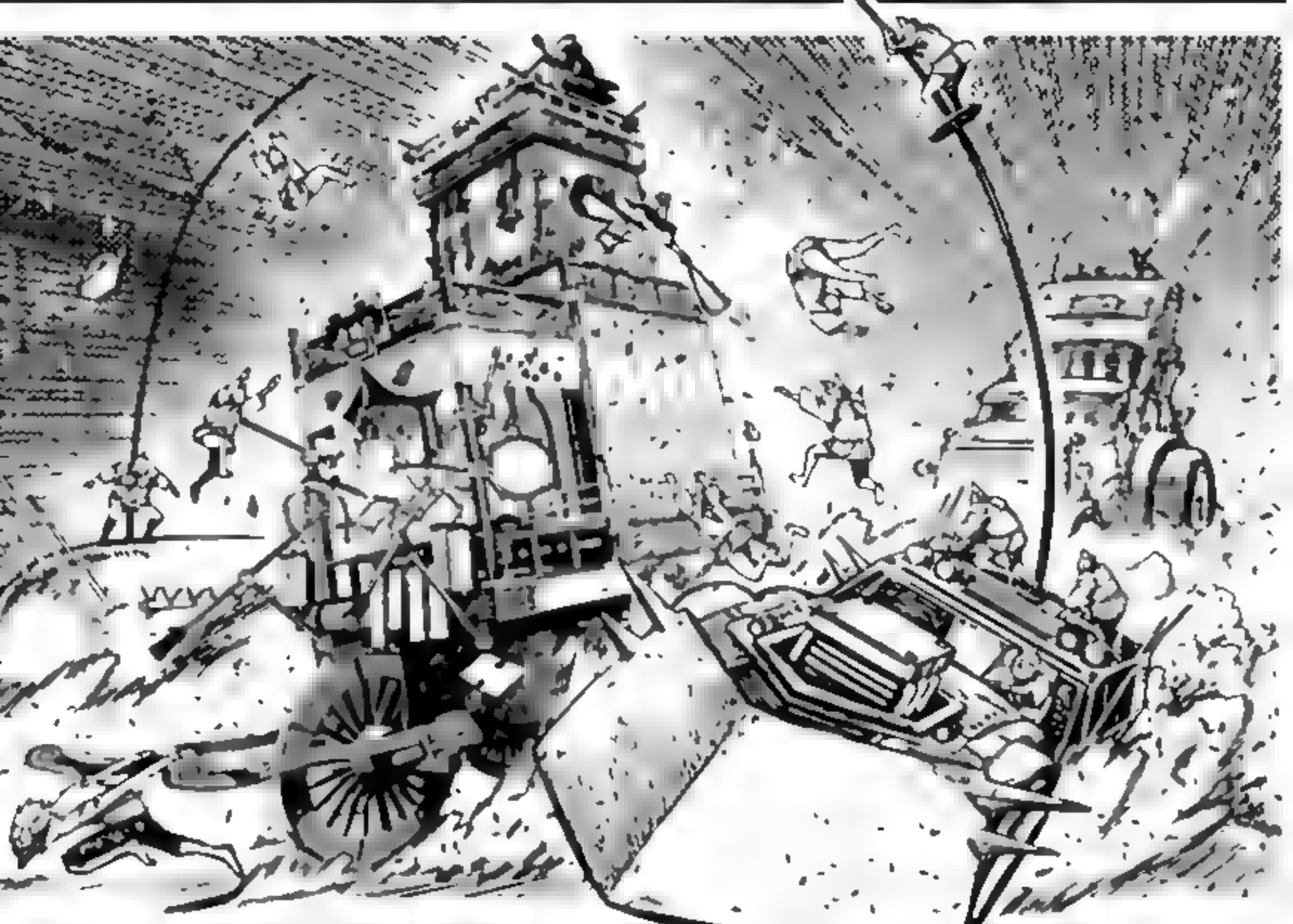
NOW.

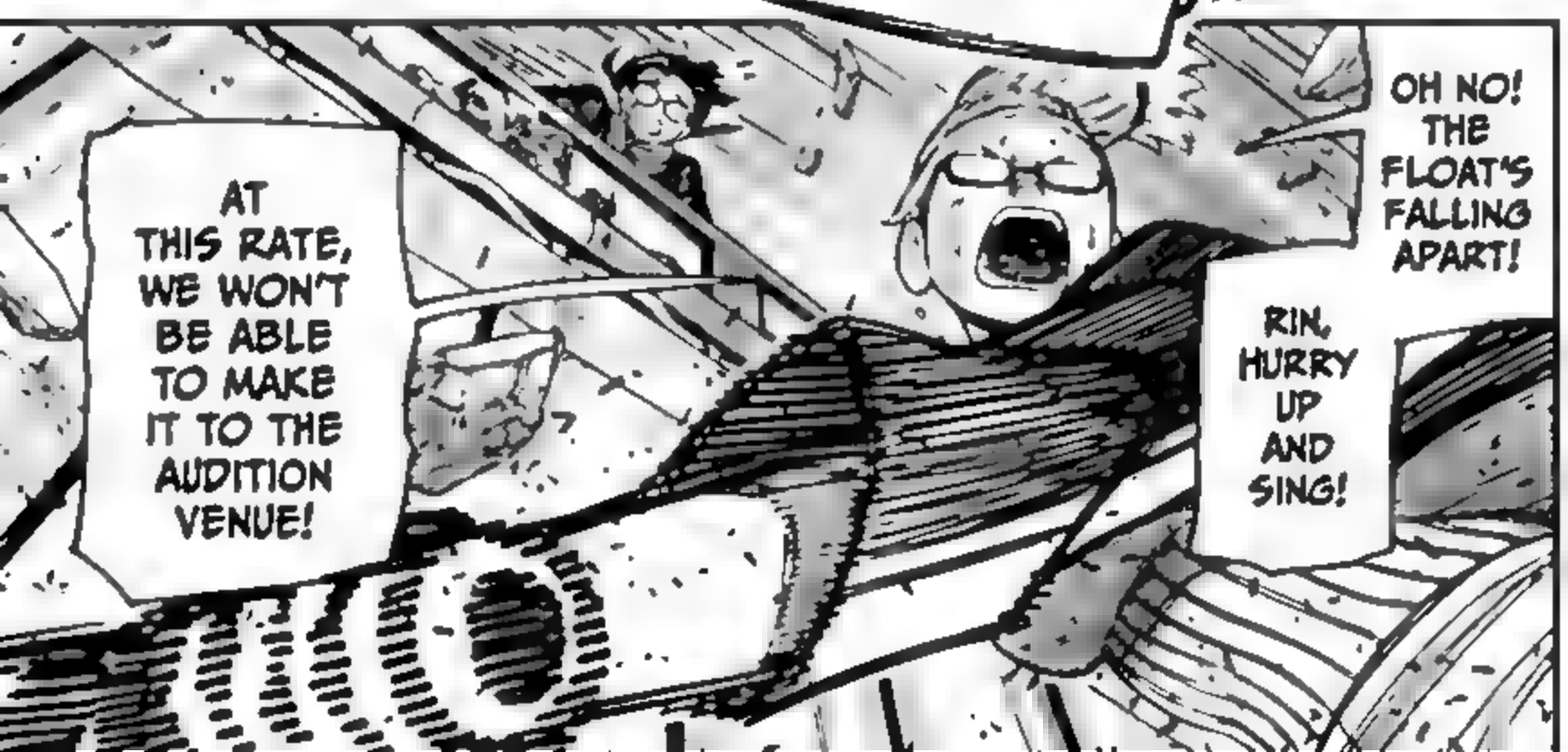
I'M SORRY.

CAN WE...

...BE FRIENDS?

OB GOURSE WE GAN!




AT THIS RATE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE AUDITION VENUE!
OH NO! THE FLOAT'S FALLING APART!
RIN, HURRY UP AND SING!

MAI! CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT BIG ONE?!

IT'S BEING DRAWN BY YOU, ISN'T IT?!

SORRY!

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT MYSELF.

HUH?!

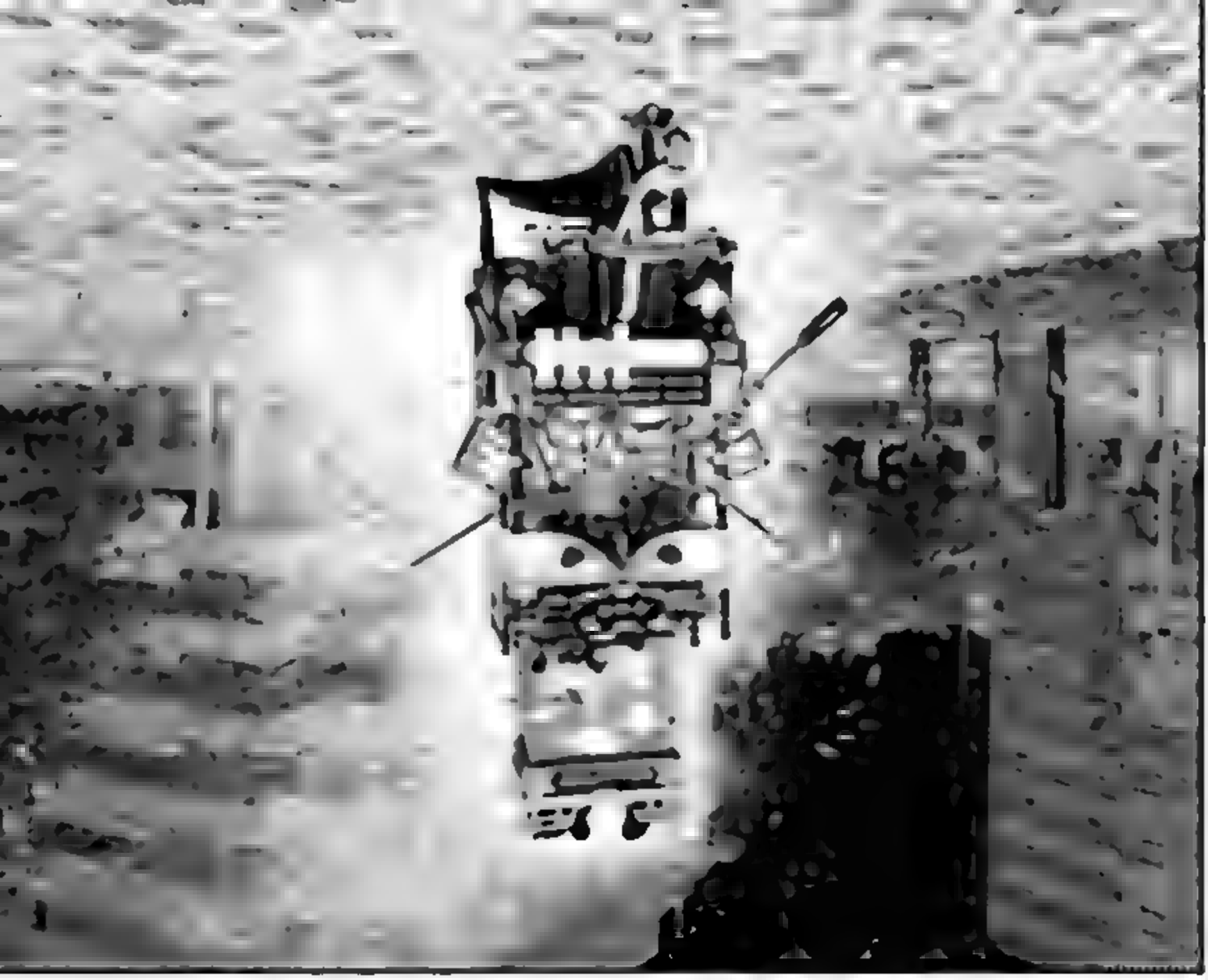
WE'VE GOT YOUR SONG.

IT'LL BE OKAY.

...SING IT TOGETHER?

CAN WE...

LET'S DO THIS!



COULDN'T LAST ANOTHER SECOND

WE MADE IT..

HFF

HFF

HFF

MA!!

WHERE ARE YOU?!

MAI! SINGING AND DANCING WITH YOU...

...WAS SO MUCH FUN!

I WASN'T LYING WHEN I SAID I WANTED TO BE IDOLS TOGETHER!

RIN.

THE THING IS...

...I WAS ENVIOUS OF YOU.

YOU ALWAYS SEEMED SO NERVOUS...

...BUT WHEN YOU'D SING, YOU WERE DIGNIFIED.

LIKE YOU HAD NO DOUBTS AT ALL.

BUT I'M DIFFERENT.

I WAS ALWAYS SO ANXIOUS, WORRYING THAT PEOPLE...

...MIGHT NOT LIKE ME.

I HAD NO SELF-CONFIDENCE.

BEING AN IDOL WAS TO MAKE MY MOM HAPPY...

I WAS JUST TRYING TO LIVE UP TO HER EXPECTATIONS.

SO I'M THE REAL TRAITOR.

MAI, YOU'RE NOT A TRAITOR!
NO!
...AND WE ALL ADMIRED YOU!
AND YOU WERE BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL. YOU WERE AN IDOL TO US ALL...
YOU WERE ALWAYS KIND TO ALL OF US.

...WASN'T JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE SWEET!

BUT THAT...

YOU WERE SO DESPERATELY TRYING TO MEET EXPECTATIONS ...

...GIVING IT EVERYTHING YOU HAD...

...LOOKING SO COOL, AND THAT'S WHY!

BONUS

LET'S GO BUY SOME JUICE.

HUH?!

WHY ME?!

ACK! THE EVIL EYE!

YOU.

GO ASK MOMO FOR STUFF LIKE THAT!

IT'S BETTER WITH YOU.

WITH ME?

GO JUMP IN A LAKE!

WHAT'S WRONG?

THOK

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE GOT LOTSA MONEY.

129. Kawabanga

THANK YOU SINCERELY...

...FOR ALL THE HELP YOU GAVE ME.

...

ALSO...

...AND IT PAINS ME TO SAY THIS...

YES, MA'AM !!!
GOOD WORK TODAY.
ONCE YER ALL DONE EATING, BEAT IT.
NOW SHE'S TURNED INTO SOMETHING WEIRD.
THIS PLACE SURE IS SQUALID, HUH?
...IT SEEMS SHE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO MOVE ON TO THE AFTERLIFE ...

IS IT OKAY THAT SHE HASN'T?

WOW!

WELL, THAT'S GOOD!

SO YOU MEAN IN THE END SHE WASN'T ABLE TO FIND PEACE?

MORE LIKE A GUARDIAN SPIRIT.

IT'S NOT AN EVIL SPIRIT ANYMORE.

IT'S FINE.

BUT THAT'S NOT A GOAL FOR ME ANYMORE.

AND I CAN'T SIT BY AND ALLOW THAT!

WELL, HOW COULD I?

NOT UNTIL I SEE RIN BECOME AN IDOL, SEE?

YIKES.

IF YOU DON'T, YOUR LIFE HAS NO PURPOSE.

YOU ABSOLUTELY *HAVE* TO SING!

YOU HAVE A TALENT FOR SINGING.

HEY!

AND RIN ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT MIX WITH ORDINARY PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

THAT'S PRETTY HARSH.

I WON'T SAY.

WELL, IDOL IT IS, THEN.

...BUT I COULD NEVER BE AN IDOL.

I LIKE SINGING ...

I HAVE A DIFFERENT DREAM NOW.

WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

A DIFFER-ENT DREAM?

YOU DON'T GET TO DECIDE THAT FOR ME!

SO WHAT IS IT?

JUST TELL ME.

I WANT TO WRITE LIGHT NOVELS...

...

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ANYTHING TO WRITE ABOUT.

DON'T ASSUME LIGHT NOVELS ARE EASY.

AND DON'T *YOU* ASSUME BECOMING AN IDOL IS EASY!

SOMEONE LIKE ME COULD NEVER MAKE IT!

ACK! I SAID IT!

IF YOU'RE THAT EMBARRASSED ABOUT IT, IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

NOW BE A GOOD GIRL AND SET YOUR SIGHTS ON BECOMING AN IDOL.

I...

...WANT TO WRITE...

...A ROMANCE STORY ABOUT A VAMPIRE AND A GIRL!

MISS AYASE.

THERE'S ACTUALLY SOMETHING ELSE...

IF YOU PEOPLE ARE DONE, COULD YOU JUST LEAVE?

I'M EXHAUSTED AND NEED SOME SLEEP.

MOON

THE CLASS REP FOUND MY FAMILY JEWEL.

SHE TURNED IT IN AT A POLICE BOX..

...BUT IT SEEMS SOMEBODY COLLECTED IT.

HAH?!

SO YOU GOT IT BACK?

YOU SHOULD'VE SAID THAT SOONER!

FOR REAL?!

NO.

IT'S NOT HERE...

I FIND THAT ODD MYSELF.

HOW COULD THEY PROVE IT WAS THEIRS?!

BUT HOW?!

...BUT THAT WOULD MEAN THE POLICE OFFICER LIED TO US...

IT COULD POSSIBLY STILL BE AT THE POLICE BOX...

UNDER-STOOD. WELL, I'LL BE OFF, THEN.

LET'S CHECK IT OUT AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW.

I CAN DO THAT.

MOON

MISS AYASE, *YOU* COULD SEE ITS AURA...

...AND CONFIRM IF IT'S THERE OR NOT.

I'M TRULY SORRY.

MISS AYASE. I MISJUDGED YOU.

MOON

ENOUGH ALREADY!

GAH!

JUST LEAVE!

BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY KIND AND CONSIDERATE.

I ALWAYS ASSUMED YOU WERE A SCARY DELINQUENT.

GLOOM

GLOOM

SIGH...

OKARUN. WALK HER ALL THE WAY TO HER DOOR.

IT'S DARK.

LEAVE IT TO ME.

I ALMOST FORGOT.

WHAT?

MOON

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

MISS AYASE!

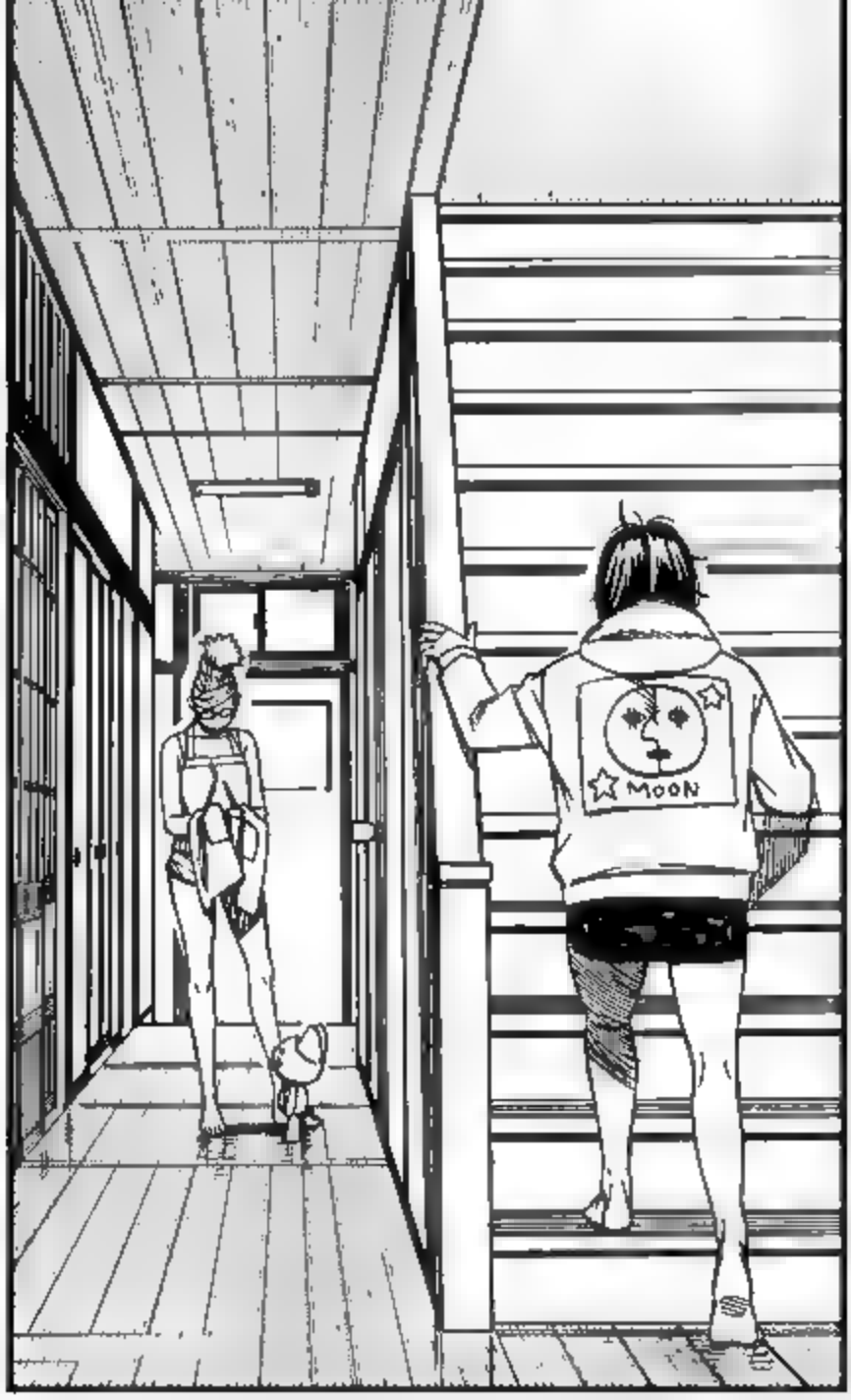
MOON

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

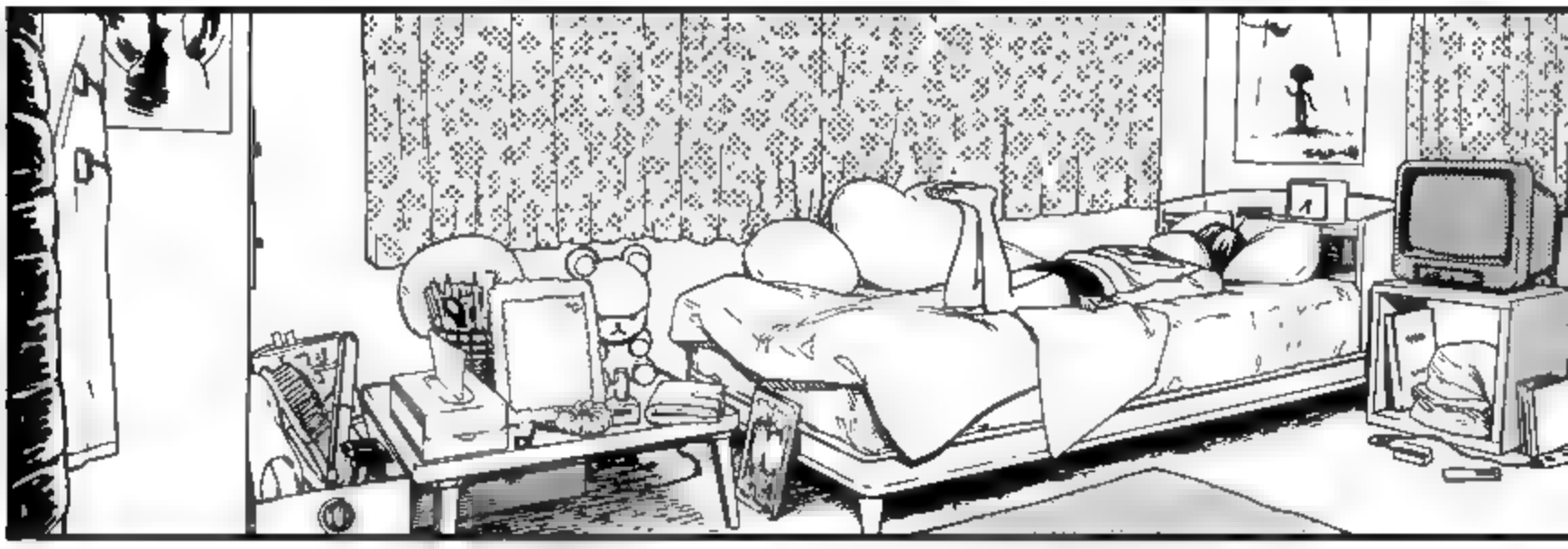
'KAY ...

MOON

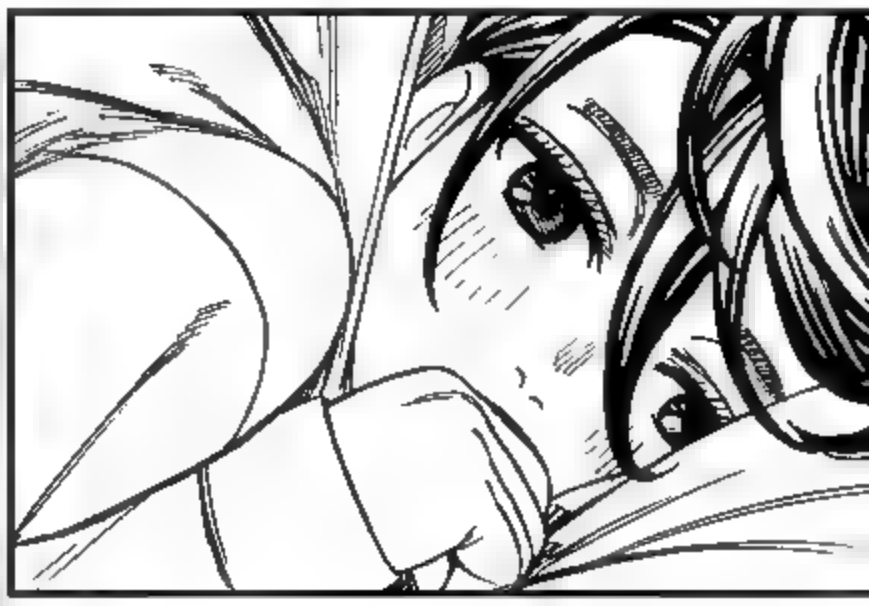
MOON


MOON

MOON



HE LOOKED ME IN THE EYE...



LET'S LOOK EACH OTHER IN THE EYE FOR TEN SECONDS!

OKAY, THEN TEN SECONDS!

LOOK, THERE'S NO NEED TO DO THAT!

YOU'RE TOO CLOSE!

HEY, WHAT GOT INTO YOU?!

YOU AVERT YOUR EYES EVEN WHEN WE'RE FAR APART!

THAT'S NOT TRUE. I'M TELLING YOU!

HERE WE GO!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

IF YOU CAN'T DO IT, THERE'S A PENALTY!

WE'RE PICKING THIS UP AGAIN LATER!

DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT!

YOU SON OF A BITCH!

OKAY! I GET IT!

THE POLICE BOX, PLEASE?!

OH! LOOK!

KAMIGOE POLICE BOX

IT'S THE POLICE BOX!

HMPH!

AED

POLICE

KAMIGOE POLICE STATION KAMIGOE POLICE BOX

HMM...
WELL? IS MY FAMILY JEWEL IN THERE?

YOUR FAMILY JEWELS ARE REAL BRIGHT AND BLINGY...
CUZ I'M NOT SEEING IT...
... ORB ARTI-FACTS ?
ARE THESE ...

SCARY.

WHO COULD IT HAVE BEEN?

SO THAT MEANS SOMEBODY REALLY DID COME TO COLLECT IT.

I DON'T KNOW. HOW DO WE EVEN LOOK FOR THEM?

TRUE.

THEY MAY HAVE TAKEN DOWN THEIR NAME AND ADDRESS.

WHEN YOU COLLECT LOST PROPERTY...

...DON'T THEY MAKE YOU WRITE DOWN A LOT OF INFOR-MATION?

THE PROBLEM NOW IS...

...HOW DO WE GET A LOOK AT IT?

...FOR REAL RIGHT NOW?

ARE YOU ASS-WIPES...

YOU'RE THE *ONLY ONE* WE CAN TURN TO, TURBO GRANNY!

IT'S A *VERY* IMPORTANT ROLE.

WHY THE HELL DO I GOTTA PRETEND TO BE LOST PROPERTY?!

YES, YES! THE ONLY ONE!

AN UNDERCOVER OP THAT COULD EVEN TOP THE LIKES OF *SPY x FAMILY*!

...AND THEN TAKE DOWN NOTES ON ALL THE LOST PROPERTY DATA FOR THE PAST MONTH OR SO!

... INFILTRATE THE POLICE BOX...

YOU PRETEND TO BE LOST PROPERTY ...

LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE ASSWIPES.

WHEN YOU ASK A PERSON A FAVOR...

...THEY WANT TO SEE A SIGN OF *GOOD FAITH.*

WE NEED YOUR HELP, GREAT TURBO GRANNY!

WE'RE BEGGING YOU!

Bull Nobility

SUPERHARD CHIPLE

FAMILY SIZE

NOT BAD.

ASS-WIPES.

Dandadan Vol. 15 End

MAI KAWABANGA

TYPE: PIXIE
HABITAT: NEAR RIN
HEIGHT: 40 CM

A PIXIE THAT HAUNTS RIN IN ORDER TO MAKE HER AN IDOL. A SELF-PROCLAIMED PRODUCER.

OMBUSMAN

TYPE: YOKAI
HABITAT: SOMEONE'S BACK
LENGTH: AT WILL

A CHILD WHO PASSES AWAY SOON AFTER BIRTH CAN BECOME A YOKAI AND HAUNT SOMEONE'S BACK. IF YOU ARE KIND TO IT, THE SPIRIT WILL BE ABLE TO REST IN PEACE, BUT IF YOU IGNORE IT, IT CONTINUES TO BECOME HEAVIER. IT CAN MANIPULATE GRAVITY AND DRAW OTHER SPIRITS TO IT.

SHINING SCHOOL

TYPE: LOCATION-BOUND SPIRIT
HABITAT: SCHOOL
HEIGHT: 20 M

KINJIRO DEATH ROAD NINIMOYA

TYPE: STATUE
HABITAT: SCHOOL
HEIGHT: 150 CM

SUPERNATURAL ENTITIES THAT ARE ATTRACTED TO THE OMBUSMAN. THE SHINING SCHOOL IS AN AMALGAMATION OF THE MANY SCHOOL MYSTERIES. NINOMIYA KINJIRO IS THE NAME NINOMIYA SONTOKU WAS COMMONLY KNOWN BY. AS A WAY TO REVIVE FARMING VILLAGES, HE STARTED THE WORLD'S FIRST FARMERS CO-OPS, CALLED *GOJOUKOU*, AND HE PREACHED THE PHILOSOPHY OF *HOUTOKU*. HOUTOKU IS THE REPAYMENT OF PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE KINDNESS RECEIVED FROM HEAVEN, EARTH, AND HUMANKIND. HIS POLICY FOR REVITALIZING FARMING VILLAGES WAS CALLED *HOUTOKU SHIHO*, WHICH CALLED FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES WITH A SENSE OF GRATITUDE AND A DESIRE TO REPAY THE HARMONY BROUGHT ABOUT BY HEAVEN AND EARTH'S VIRTUES AND BY DILIGENT HUMAN LABOR, WHICH ARE NEEDED TO SURVIVE.

YUKINOBU TATSU

I was getting far too little sunlight and felt like I was getting depressed, so I started going to the batting cages.

Yukinobu Tatsu debuted in *Gekkan Shounen Magazine* with *Seigi no Rokugou* (Rokugou of Justice). He has also worked as an assistant for manga artist Tatsuki Fujimoto on the well-known series *Chainsaw Man* and *Fire Punch*.

DANDADAN 15

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SHONEN JUMP

ratings.viz.com RATED M MATURE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
DANDADAN is rated M for Mature and is recommended for mature readers. This volume contains crude language, violence, suggestive themes, and a mysterious stranger!